Pye Telecommunications Headquarters, Newmarket Road, 1970s

Cambridge INDUSTRY Chronicle by Mike Petty

Reports of industry and manufacturing in Cambridge 1888-1990: a chronology followed by sections on Cambridge Instrument Company, Marshall's, Pye of Cambridge and Sinclair

1881
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company founded by Horace Darwin, makes equipment University, develops electrocardiograph

1895
Cambridge Instrument Company formally registered, (established1881) [1.13]

1896
In 1896 William George Pye left Cavendish Laboratory & began to design scientific instruments for university students [1.14]

1898 07 26
A meeting in connection with the proposed Cambridge Ice and Cold Storage Company was held at the University Arms Hotel. A central site had been secured at Petty Cury and they had customers both for ice and cold storage. The two biggest firms in Cambridge had agreed to have cold storage, beside many other gentlemen, and they would have orders for eleven hundred tons of ice for the first weeks working. Some hundreds of shares were taken up before the meeting ended - CDN 1898 07 26

1900

1900 05 14
The extensive Portland Cement Works which are being erected in the neighbourhood of Coldham's Lane and Mill Road are now assuming enormous dimensions; in fact the buildings already completed are ample evidence that one of the largest and most modern cement works in England will be situated near Cambridge. The celebrated gun-makers, Messrs Krupp of Essen, are supplying most of the extensive machinery for the company and a cement will be manufactured that conforms to the specifications of the Board of Admiralty and the London County Council CDN 1900 05 14

1900 07 20
For some years the manufacture of Portland cement had been carried on in the district, but it is today that the new Saxon Portland Company is seriously undertaking the scientific manufacture of the product on a large commercial scale. One of the largest and most modern cement works in the kingdom is being erected on the Coldham Lane, Cambridge. Sidings have been connected with the railway capable of holding three trains of 20 trucks each. The buildings, rapidly approaching completion, include eight large cement kilns & an enormous building will provide storage for the manufactured cement. The works will be open by night and by day. The electric light will be extensively used and the current will be generated at the works 00 07 20

1901 02 18
An outbreak of fire occurred at the works of the Cambridge Brick Company, situated between Coldham's Lane and Newmarket Road on the outskirts of the densely populated district of Barnwell. The fire attracted large crowds and the flames, aided by a gentle breeze, spread rapidly, soon mounting in the air a distance of about a hundred feet. In just over two hours everything had yielded to the flames and all that remained was the damaged and broken parts of the valuable machinery. Fortunately the conflagration was confined to the corrugated iron roofed wooden building covering the machinery or the entire works could easily scarcely have escaped destruction.

1901 08 28
Cambridgeshire enjoys the reputation of being an agricultural and fruit-growing county but now must be added the reputation of manufacturing centre. There are several factories within a few miles of Cambridge and another on a large scale no further away than Fen Ditton is promised. The Poplar Hall Estate has been purchased where the beds of limestone and clay marl contain every natural ingredient for the manufacture of the highest class Portland cement. In addition blue gault or brick earth underlies the estate and this should make the best white bricks. It has a frontage of nearly half a mile to the Cam on which is already erected a wharf or loading dock which would put the works in direct touch with the steamboat companies running into Lynn docks CDN 1901 08 29

1901 10 10
A number of Cambridge gentlemen interested in the cement industry have formed the Cambs Cement Chamber of Commerce to further in every possible way the interests of cement manufacturing in the county. To them Mr W. Abbott is prepared to make over by deed of gift fifteen acres of the Poplar Hall Estate, simply asking that the land shall be efficiently worked and from time to time reports published. He is convinced it would put beyond all question that there is money in Cambridgeshire cement 01 10 10

1902 09 15
Under proper conditions Cambridge cement is equal to the finest the world produces. The up-to-date methods of the Saxon Cement Company has resulted in it commanding a considerable advance per ton in the open market. The Admiralty, after protracted tests, has placed a contract for Cambridge Portland Cement which will extend over a considerable period, proving beyond doubt that the local deposit is in every way suited for producing a perfect natural cement CDN 1902 09 15

1903 10 24
The recent completion of the Atlas Stone Company works at Coldham's Lane will add to the industrial importance of the Romsey Town and Cherry Hinton districts of Cambridge. A complete

plant for the manufacture of artificial paving slabs on the most up-to-date principles has been installed with a hydraulic press capable of 500 slabs per day worked by electric power. The chief market is in London and the Eastern Counties where the value of artificial flags for footways has been firmly established. 03 10 24

1904 11 11
Cement making has already become a very important Cambridge industry. Extensive new works are rapidly approaching completion and have made a great change in the landscape of Cherry Hinton. The pleasant path through the fields from the end of Mill Road is hardly recognisable now. It has been diverted to make room for a huge collection of buildings from which a new siding leads to the railway line close at hand. These are the Norman Cement Company's works. 1904 11 11

1904 11 14
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1906 05 21
'Kleno' is a liquid cleanser for domestic and industrial use manufactured in Broad Street, Cambridge. Chemical changes take place in a locked room before it is refined in a series of vats from which it emerges clear and bright. The bottle washing apparatus is worked by steam and the factory has its own warehouses making packing cases ready for despatch. It is a matter of satisfaction that the factory has been established here, for it involves the employment of more labour and all the benefits of a growing industry. 06 05 21a b c

1906 10 27
English people face a great crisis: the gradual monopolisation by huge Trusts of the supply of the necessaries of life. Now it is soap. Cambridge has its own manufactory – the Castle Soap Company – which opposes the Trust - has seen its sales rise. But if customers continue to ask for Sunlight brand then the monopoly will refuse to supply the retailer who stocks the 'free' soaps. 06 10 27 abc

1906 11 26
Soap Trust collapse – impact locally on Soap Company – 06 11 26a & b

1907 01 03
One of the most flourishing of Cambridge's small industries is the confectionery factory of Pollard and Co. in Garden Walk, Victoria Road. From this delightfully-situated establishment some tons of pure boiled sweets are exported to various parts of the country. Not even with the recent extensions to the factory can they cope with the demand. One of their specialities are honey and butter balls and the marzipan for the centre of their satin pralines is made of the finest almonds. 07 01 03 & 03a

1907 01 11
Castle Soap Company – detailed article – 07 01 11 & 11a

1907 01 18
When Dew Smith and Horace Darwin commenced the manufacture of certain scientific instruments for physiological work at the University Laboratory it was more as a hobby and not financially profitable. But it grew and in 1895 was turned into a limited liability company which is now flourishing at its pleasantly situated works off Chesterton Road. Among its important products is a kite used in meteorological observations and a machine for standardising small screws which has been supplied to the Japanese government. 07 01 18

1908 08 28

Great blocks of glittering, iridescent ice are manufactured on the site of the Falcon Inn, Petty Cury, every hot midsummer morning. Mr J.V. Pryor, the fish-monger has installed plant for this modern miracle and the shrill insistent note of the dynamo is joined by the plunk-plunk of the gas engine exhaust. Like the flying machine, the ice factory is at present only in its infancy and the plant is expensive but the method of manufacture is simplicity itself, taking 50 hours to produce slabs weighing two cwt apiece and makes more than Mr Pryor needs for his ordinary fish business CEN 08 08 28 p3

1910

1910 01 14
The annual dinner of the Saxon Cement Works, the Norman Cement Works and the Atlas Stone Company took place at the Lion Hotel, Petty Cury. The cement industry was important for Cambridge. They had started with 128 men, today they employ over 300 with a permanent staff of 70 clerks and supervisors. They'd spent over £150,000 in coal and coke, another £150,000 in materials from machinery to stationery. Close on £200,000 had paid in wages, most in Cambridge, and the railway companies had received more than £300,000 over the last seven years. CWN 10 01 14i & j

1910 03 11
Norman Cement works timekeeper threatened 10 03 11d

1910 11 25
The late Mr Alfred Simper was a well-known rope-maker who formerly carried on business at Great Shelford. For the past 21 years he lived at Rope Walk, New Street and visited all the markets around Cambridge. He had a stall in the Corn Exchange for 20 years and was highly respected by all with whom he came in contact. Mr Simper was a prominent Cambridge Christadelphian and the funeral service was conducted according to the custom of the Christadelphian community by Dr W.J. Young of Harston. 10 11 25f

1911
London Instrument Co founded, make athletic equipment (used every Olympic games since 1948; change name to 'Cantabrian'1974) [6.2]

1911 12 29
The Saxon and Norman Portland Cement Company, whose works form a well-known landmark near Cambridge, is to sell its local factories to the British Portland Cement Manufacturers Ltd which has been formed to control most of the important cement works in Britain. It is gratifying to note that Mr A.C. Davis, to whose energy and business acumen the Saxon Works owe so much of its success, is to be the Managing Director of the new Company 11 12 29c

1912 01 26
Dr Waldstein of Newton Hall says Cambridge is a place where there should be some industry where people who are often idle might be employed. There are women who work - bedmakers for instance - who have husbands who do not. Some years ago he tried a scheme for wood carving but it fell through and the local clay is not right for pottery. Now he proposed the establishment of a heraldic bureau to become a centre of inquiries from architects and provide private individuals with authoritative information on family coats of arms. 12 01 26f &g

1912 04 26
A serious accident occurred to an employee of Messrs Watts and Son, timber merchants, on Newmarket Road. He was working at his tile machine when he caught his right hand in the gault knives, which drew his arm into the machine. His fellow worker was able to stop the machine at once. Drs Naish and Pain were called and it was found necessary to chloroform him and take the machine to pieces before the arm could be extricated. He was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital where the arm was amputated speedily. He is doing as well as can be expected 12 04 26e

1913
W.G. Pye & Co new scientific Instrument works opened by Prof Thomson [2.2]

1913 05 30
A blaze broke out at Messrs Macintosh's foundry in Thompson's Lane. After the day's work is done the men draw the furnace to allow the fire to die out. When this is done huge sparks fly up, giving the impression that the place is on fire. But one of these sparks was blown on to the roof and set light to a beam. Had it been left the entire premises would have burnt down. But firemen, aided by undergraduates, put it out. 13 05 30 p11 CIP

1913 05 30
Ivett & Reed stonemasons noisy stone-cutting machine 13 05 30 p10 CIP

1913 07 18
The prosperity of Cambridge is so much bound up with the success of the two large wage-paying undertakings, the Saxon and Norman Cement Works that it is good news to hear that British Portland Manufacturers have announced a dividend of seven per cent for their first year's working. It was registered in November 1911 to acquire several undertakings, including the Cambridge works. The profits for the year amount to £306,092 (about £30m at today's prices) 13 07 18 p12

1914 05 29
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company welcomed visitors to their workshops, test room, drawing office and stores. They were also shown the manufacture and operation of the various instruments made. Many are of great commercial value. The extension is the fourth addition since the works were moved from Panton Street to Chesterton Road. It is the chief of the few manufacturing concerns in Cambridge and now employs 180 hands 14 05 29d & e

1914 05 29
A mysterious illness, believed to be ptomaine poisoning, attacked 50 people who attended the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company's dinner. A considerable number of the employees had to quit work and go home, several are still seriously ill. The dinner had been given to 300 employees and their wives and was attended by the Chairman, Horace Darwin and other directors. One of their wives is amongst the sufferers. Suspicion had fallen upon the salmon served as the second dish at the dinner which included Ox-Tail soup, roast lamb, gooseberry tarts and ginger beer. 14 05 29f

1914 07 24
The whole of the Watts' Timber Yard on Newmarket Road., including sawmills, drying sheds and kilns were destroyed by fire. The blaze started in the stoke hole from which flames spread to the engine room and brick-making shed adjoining. The saw-mill nearby, containing a lot of wood, was soon alight and the wind blowing from Newmarket Road swept the blaze to the drying sheds and kilns where workmen removed the bricks. The tall chimney was expected to fall at any moment but the gable end of the saw-mill fell outwards, just missing firemen standing beneath it. However sheds holding valuable stock of flooring boards were put out. 14 07 24

1914 09 04
The presence of the military has greatly improved the trade prospects of Cambridge and there is no immediate fear of unemployment. The end of the Long Vacation is always a slack time but at the moment the town is busier than usual. It is not certain the town can rely on the continued presence of troops throughout the war and many firms are not sure how they can keep going. The printing trade has been hit by the stoppage of trade circulars and advertisements, builders say contracts have been postponed putting plasterers & stonemasons out of work and the position of college servants and is being considered. The problems of lodging house keepers may be overcome by the billeting of officers and the presence of relatives of the men in the hospitals. But they may no get the rent usually paid by undergraduates. In laundry work the hospitals and military have gone to the larger laundries

and demand from ordinary householders has decreased due to motives of economy. Tailors have sufficient work owing to the army orders but women's outfitting department report a shortage of custom. Several jobbing gardeners are out of work & owners of unused plots should consider putting them into cultivation to grown vegetables. 14 09 04 p

1916 11 04
Local Chamber of Commerce formed [2.12]

1916 11 06
Glove making – a new industry; when undergraduates left there was grave unemployment and Rutherford & Clothier of King's Parade introduced glove making, now producing 600 pairs a week by women working at home on machines provided by the firm; are difficulties obtaining fabric – 16 11 01b

1919 04 02
Cambridge industries: what firms have done during the war; how to encourage factories; address by H.S. Whipple. Includes: Chivers for jam and food stuffs, W. Saint made heavy crates and repaired ammunition boxes; Coulson & Lofts – locker cabinets for munitions; C. Kerridge – crates for jam and doors for huts; H.J. Gray – signal flag poles; P.H. Allin = Stokes shells and Mills grenades; Engineering Labs – high-explosive shells and gauges for manufacture other war equipment' Gas Light Company – benzol for high explosive and ammonical liquor for agriculture, tar for distilling for navy; CUP printed 1.6M copies of New Testament for troops; Suttle made chevrons and badges, part of 15,000 officers' uniforms; Mackintosh made gas chambers for treatment of those gassed in France, includes order from American army; King & Harper controlled all the mechanical tractors and implements within 15 miles which ploughed 16,000 acres in 1918; first two had been intended for hauling Russian guns but ploughed eight furrows at time; W.G. Pye mad height finders for aeroplanes, special telescopes, sights for guns, electrical instruments etc; Cambridge Scientific Instrument Co made pyrometers for controlling temperature in manufacturing of war materials such as cartridge brass, manufacture of cordite etc; optical pyrometers formerly only made in Germany; special workshop for thermometers for aircraft ensuring water did not freeze in high-flying planes as well as instruments to determine height and special experimental work. Also considers future industries, need for housing etc – 19 04 02a

1919 11 19
F. Winton Smith's new food factory, Wellington House, East Road – detailed feature article – 19 11 19a ; formally opened – 19 11 26b [1.9]

1920

1920 03 03
Cambridge Town Planning inquiry considers objections of cement manufacturers about land Cherry Hinton Road; proposes new road from Cherry Hinton Road to Fen Ditton Road across Coldham's Common; had been excavation for coprolites and foundations were bad, brick pits. Was good supply for Cement works but this meant noise, dust and smoke – Ch 20 03 03a

1921
Pye Ltd changed to radio 1921 when lapse in demand for instruments; 210 ft aerial mast put up at start war to help develop defence systems & once used very low power experimental tv programmes [446.17.1]

1921 07
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company big blaze [1.5]

1922 05 20
"Cambridge a splendid site for industry ... university can look after itself" [2.1]

1922 11 21
The growth of wireless since its first invention is truly wonderful, and one cannot fail to be impressed with the way in which it has been simplified. The present arrangements for "broadcasting" have resulted in the setting up of many private installations in Cambridge and some of the finest "sets" are being produced at Messrs G.H. Pye's works in Cam Road. In 1921 this firm experienced a very slack time, and in order to keep their workers employed, they commenced experiments in wireless. They are now producing as fast as they can simplified receiving sets of two to five valves

1922 12 09
The Cambridge & District Wireless Society had a "full house" at their demonstration on broadcasting. Mr T. Robinson, manager of Pye's Scientific Instrument Co. had very kindly consented to demonstrate their latest broadcast receiver of five valves attached to which was a Magnavox loud-speaking telephone. Mr Robinson tuned up for the London broadcasting station and amongst the items heard were Mr Vivian Foster, known to Cambridge theatre-goers as the "vicar of mirth" who entertained the audience by his witty sayings. During the evening the Birmingham and Manchester broadcasting stations were also received. The latest news, billiard scores, market reports and latest weather report were items among a very varied programme

1926 06 01
Now that the excitement of the General Strike has passed away it may be of interest to note the effect of the strike upon local employment. Messrs Pye have only had about 2½ days short time but at the Cement Works the coal difficulty has resulted in a spell of enforced idleness for some of the hands. The Saxon Company's employees are being given their usual holidays on full pay and since short time started have been given work turn and turn-about on repairs but unless the coal comes along there will be no more work for the present.

1928 09 11
The Cambridge works of Messrs W.G. Pye, the well-known scientific instrument and wireless apparatus makers were entered and the workshops and office ransacked. The works consist of several blocks of buildings extending from Cam Road to St Andrew's church at Old Chesterton. The visitor got into the transformer shop and then into a corridor by means of a hole which had been made in the wall for the fixing of a checking clock. Practically no damage was done and only a small sum of money is missing. It appears he was not a wireless enthusiast because none of the wireless parts were taken

1930

1930 02 28
Two bottles of dead flies were produced at Cambridge council meeting in support of the contention that a rabbit skin factory in York Terrace was still a public nuisance. They had been caught in neighbouring houses. Residents said life was unbearable on many occasions and a man suffering from tuberculosis had to sleep with his windows shut because of the obnoxious smells which were worse at night. But the Medical Officer said that in spite of careful inspection no smells, flies or bugs were found. 30 02 28-

1931 10 23
Residents of York Terrace protested about the rabbit-skin warehouse in Sturton Street. They had large blue-bottles in their homes and maggots had been seen crawling on the pavement within a few inches of their doors. The proprietor had put in different machinery but had not obviated the nuisance. It should be moved from that crowded area so people could live free from the smells, maggots and flies. 31 10 23c & d

1931 11 27

The question of the development of the industrial side of Cambridge has cropped up periodically over a good many years. Hitherto works and factories have not been encouraged - the serene, academic atmosphere should be maintained at all cost. But economic pressure, the diminution in the spending power of the undergraduates, depression of agriculture and trade have hit the town very hard. Cloistered calm is all very well, but people must live. 31 11 27b & c

1932 01 18
Complaints have been received about the rabbit skin warehouse in Sturton Street. Inhabitants of York Terrace say it caused effluvia and was a nuisance injurious to their health due to abominable smells which prevented them opening their windows and because of the maggots which escaped from the works and entered their houses. 32 01 18, 32 01 22b

1932 01 22
Pye Radio invited people to inspect their works and queues five or six deep stretched halfway up Haig Road. It is amazing that a non-industrial town should have such fine works and few realised that we in Cambridge had such an important and highly organised industry in our midst. In these times of depression it is a novelty to find a works which is really flourishing. Despite making 4,000 sets a week, demand is greater than supply and they are planning to increase the size of the works by 50 percent. 32 01 22c & d

1932 02 19
York Street residents signed a petition complaining about the Sturton Street rabbit skin factory. It had started in 1928 and the skins were stored and dried on the premises. The smell was very offensive and unhealthy, like old bones burning, there were maggots in the streets and blow flies as big as small bees. It was very bad in August – but the factory was only open from September to March. 32 02 19 & 19a

1932 02 22
New Cambridge Industry (employing only local men). Same day dry-cleaning service by the new British wonder machine which cleans and actually strengthens fabrics leaving no smell. Special opening offer: suit, costume, coat or dress, dry cleaned, hand pressed, collected and delivered for three shillings. The Forum Cleaners and Dyers, Market Hill, Cambridge (Advert) 32 02 22

1932 03 21
Cambridge Metal Stamping Company applied for permission to erect a modern factory at the rear of St Andrew's Road. This was an area zoned for residential use but was nearly opposite the Gasworks, which was not entirely a thing of beauty and the Corporation's pumping station, which was not quite as attractive as the gasworks. Pye's works close to the river were not at all objectionable, nor was Banham's boat building establishment. Despite reservations it was agreed. 32 03 21, 23 & a

1932 05 03
Cambridge Metal Stamping Company's plans for the erection of a factory on land off St Andrew's Road, Chesterton would endanger the beautiful prospect from the river. Alderman Starr said he had viewed the site and been surprised to see a very large building for Pye's Radio Works had already been erected on the opposite side of the road. Factories were being built without consent of the council but this one could be blocked under the town planning scheme. There were other places it could go. 32 05 03 & a Metal stamping factory turned down – 32 05 05

1932 05 20
Rabbit skin factory, Sturton Street now improved – 32 05 20

1932 11 18
H.R.H. Prince George toured the Pye Radio Works where 1,500 hands produce 4,000 radio receivers a week. This is the first time a factory engaged in Britain's newest and most progressive industry has been honoured by a Royal visit. The operatives gave him a rousing reception – the girls were

especially enthusiastic: it was a wonderful study to observe their varying expressions as he passed through the workshops. "Oh, he's lovely" was the general verdict and every detail of his dress, appearance and manner have furnished a fruitful topic of conversation in Cambridge homes 32 11 18a

1933 05 27
Finch's Walk name and ironfounders – 33 05 27 & 33 06 03a

1934 01 12
H.J. Gray, the Cambridge sports manufacturers are flourishing and announced plans to extend their Playfair Works into which they moved from Searle Street 25 years ago. Now a new mill and motor engine would be introduced to keep up with demand. Henry John Gray started his career in a racquets court on the site of the present University Arms Hotel nearly 90 years ago. He became champion racquets player of England – a title that had stayed in the family for 22 years - and two his brothers became champions of the world. 34 01 12

1935 09 24
Messrs H.J. Gray of Cambridge, who manufacture sports requisites at the Playfair Works is to establish a new company in Ireland where the Government has imposed Customs duty on finished racquets, hockey sticks and cricket bats. Suitable wood is available and the quality of the goods made will compare favourably with those previously imported 35 09 24

1936 12 24
Chesterton Gravel Pits have been transformed into a flourishing business working from dawn to dusk. A Priestman dragline gets the gravel out of the ground, grabbing a third of a ton in its great steel jaws and depositing it in a truck which a patient horse drags to a narrow-gauge railway. It needs no driver but stands still while the load is emptied, then lumbers slowly back to fetch more. An ever-moving belt feeds a constant stream of raw gavel into the washing and grading machine from which it pours into appropriate heaps where a fleet of lorries cart it to its destination. 36 12 24a

1937 03
Annual Business review: description of activities:
Dorothy Café, Morlin's, Greene King, W.H. Pratt, Rendezvous cinema, Bowes & Bowes, J. Sanders, Murkett Bros, Otto Wehrle, Provincial Homes – 37 03 05
Arnold Bros, A.H. Careless, Dolphin's shoe repair, Whitmore, English Bros, W. Delph, S.A. Rose, Cherry Hinton Granaries, Coulson, S. Ginn – 37 05 05a
Smart tailors, Sennitt's game, Hayward cycle, Marshall's, F.J. Prime, Bird's Chemical works, Flack & Judge, Banham, Leys Laundry, Bell & co travel agents, Hallen's motor cycles – 37 03 05b
Allen & Welcher painters, H. Tredgett florists – 37 03 05c
Miller's music, Cam electrical, Cambs Permanent Benefit Building Society, George Stace costumiers, Trustee Savings Bank, Hyman & Cox opticians, Edw Harper funerals, F. Winton Smith butchers, Austin coal, Cambridge University Gas Light Co – 37 03 05d
Cambridge Brush, Cambridge Secretarial training school, J. Holliman furnishers, F.W. Drake medical herbalist, Cambridge Steam Laundry, A Sidney Campkin pharmacists, F.M. Wilson insurance, Collins & Clark antiques – 37 03 05e
Williamson's furnishers, Robert Sayle, J. Ward cycle, Riding School, Dale's Brfewery, Hockey auctioneers, Cambridge Billposting Co, Electric Wiring & Repair, Cambridgeshire Motors, New Cambridge Tyre co – 37 03 05f
Ivett & Reed monumental masons, Evans Flanders chemist, E.E. Harmer income tax, Layton & Leech masons, H.J. Gray sports, S. Rampling surgical appliance, Cambridge Health Spa, George Bolton removal, Kwick cleaners, Wm Farren furrier – 37 03 05g

1937 05 12
At the Coronation celebrations one small tent attracted probably more interest than any other with the possible exception of the tea tent. It contained a Pye television apparatus and during the afternoon

many availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the actual Coronation procession taking place. Although Cambridge is almost out of range of Alexandra Palace, everything came through very well. Almost the only interference was experienced when the motor racing was being held in the area only a few yards away 37 05 12b

1937 12 04
Cambridge was a prosperous town but much of the trade depended upon the students and members of the University. The colleges are becoming self-contained so the need for lodgings was drying up. On Sunday it is like walking along the streets of a lost city with the shop fronts in darkness. Cambridge should appoint a publicity agent to attract visitors and conferences, said Mayor, Ald Briggs. A great deal of progress is due to the two or three large light industries who have made their home here and it needs more 37 12 04 & a

1938 02 08
Swann's brickyard damaged by undergraduates- seemed old and disused - 38 02 08

1938 03 10
Cambridge Reference Library was packed to capacity for a lecture and demonstration on television by Mr D. Jackson of Pye Ltd. Severe electrical interference unfortunately ruined the first half of the programme from the Alexandra Palace but when after half-past-nine this eased off they were able to see some quite good vision signals and appreciate the high standard which can be expected in an area where interference is not so acute as it is in the centre of the town. 38 03 10

1938 10 06
Cambridge aerodrome has been in use for some months but the building operations have only recently been completely finished. The immense aeroplane hangar already houses over 20 machines and has room for more. The engine overhaul and repair shops are every well-equipped and all the parachutes are stored, packed and aired. The airport hotel has lounge bar, dining rooms and kitchen with guest rooms on the second floor. I have seen a lot of aerodromes but this takes a lot of beating for its well-planned layout 38 10 06

1938 10 07
Cambridge airfield was opened by Secretary of State for Air. There was no airport in Europe, with the possible exception of Berlin, which is so conveniently placed in relation to the town. D.G. Marshall recalled that in 1919 he purchased his first hangar from the Disposal Board and bought his first aeroplane. Some of his neighbours had told them to take their business elsewhere and now they had moved further out. The Flying School has been run in full understanding of University regulations; in most aerodromes the most profit-making department is the club bar, but there is not one here. 38 10 07b & c

1939 c
Pye build 210 foot mast St Andrews Rd at beginning war to help develop defence systems; once used for very low power tv programmes during war to help Pye develop receivers [27]

1939 04 19
British Portland Cement has constructed an emergency headquarters at the disused Saxon Cement Works in Coldham's Lane. Built by William Sindall it includes a complete set of offices with bombproof shelters and all A.R.P. necessities. There are two decontamination rooms with gas proof windows and splinter-proof steel shutters. Seven bomb-proof dugouts covered with eight inches of reinforced ferro-concrete and two feet of earth can each accommodate 30 people. It has an air-filtration plant, central heating and electricity supplied from an accumulator driven by a crude oil engine 39 04 19b & c

1939 06 13

Stepney and Son applied for an additional lorry to cope with the increase of work owing to Eastwoods having opened up a depot in Cambridge. The firm made use of vehicles from fifteen other contractors to haul their bricks and there was keen competition. Even if Stepney got the licence there would still be a shortage of vehicles for the haulage of bricks – they would need dozens of extra vehicles. The Corona Company had also approached them to carry two loads a week. But the licensing authority did not believe haulage power for the building material was exhausted and they refused to licence another vehicle. 39 06 13

1939 11 17
Horace George Gray was managing director of Messrs. H. J. Gray and Sons Ltd., the sports goods manufacturers. The early premises were off Grange Road and later had a factory in Searle Street before moving to Benson St 39 11 17 CIPof 39 11 16

1940

1940 02 12
Cambridge Brick Co (1937) Ltd petition for compulsory winding up adjourned – 40 02 12a
Cambridge Brick Company (1937) Ltd wound up – 40 03 05a
Cambridge Brick Co (1937) formed in April 1937 to take over business carried on by Cambridgeshire Brick Co; reconstructed and modernised works, adding new plant but hit by outbreak of war – 40 04 24b

1942 03 26
Simper, rope and tarpauling maker, New Street – was one of few people who could spin hemp two-handed – 42 03 26

1944
Pye Telecom founded [446.15.3]

1945 06 08
Secret jobs by Labs & Pye – Radiolocation – Ground Control of Interception designed and built by University Cavendish scientists in conjunction Pye engineers – put fighters at right height on tail of enemy aircraft near enough to pick them up on Airborne Interception equipment – 45 06 08

1945 11 01
Revolutionary new television system demonstrated by Pye Ltd in their television theatre – would allow production receivers for £40 – CDN 1945 11 01

1947 03 04
There is to be no night-shift in Cambridge. Instead there will be an attempt by local industry to save, during normal hours, 30 per cent of its electricity consumption. To do this the larger firms, among them Pye's and Marshalls Flying School, will make use of stand-by generator sets which will relieve the grid at peak periods. The breweries have worked out plans to transfer part of their share of the load by running a proportion of their machinery outside the peak hours. A spokesman said this might be described as "a semi-nightshift". A large proportion of the peak load is accounted for by domestic users who will have to make a drastic reduction in the use of electrical appliances if industry is to avoid cuts in power, p5

1947 12 11
Cambridge Instrument Company plans for research laboratory and office block in Carlyle Road referred for further consideration; area primarily residential and fear will destroy view – 47 12 11

1948 01 20
Often it happens that a visitor to Cambridge says: "Well there's the University; what industries have you?" The answer is invariably on the lines "Oh nothing much - wireless and jam and so on". A visit

to the "Cambridge at Work" exhibition in the Corn Exchange will give a much better insight into the activities at the wireless and jam factories, and the other industrial concerns, and will enable him to gain a true appreciation of the part that a light industrial centre like Cambridge is playing in the country's struggle. Pye Ltd are showing the latest in radio and television receivers.

1948 01 21
Any local viewers of television might recently have seen a rather surprising cookery demonstration - during which fish and vegetables were cooked in the space of three minutes. This astonishing revolution in cookery timing was accomplished by means of a pressure cooker. These utensils, which look like ordinary saucepans, were shown at last year's Ideal Homes Exhibition. They are now finding their way in the shops and are being demonstrated at Messrs Herbert Robinson Ltd's Regent Street store. They are made by a subsidiary firm of Messrs Pye Ltd

1948 03 18
Pye Ltd, celebrating their golden jubilee this year, are to mark the occasion by the gift of two television sets to every college in the University. Describing Pye Ltd as "a fairly important company in the industrial life of Cambridge" Mr C.O. Stanley said that during the war the firm employed nearly 12,000 people, today they had between three and four thousand. He went on to speak of the firm's association with the University - one "so happy and so close that I believe it will always make a mark with the people working with this business". Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg said he had always been very interested in the relation between science and industry and the co-operation that existed during the war showed there were contributions to be made from both sides. He hoped this co-operation would continue in the future 48 03 18

1948 09 27
Marshall motor body industry, p7

1948 10 09 c
Cambridge Trades council is backing an effort being made by local industry to obtain additional houses. The initiative in this matter has been taken by Marshall's Flying School. Pre-war they employed 3-400 people. At the war's end they had 3,700 on the payroll. They had purchased 7 houses and had converted an office block to flats to house a further 12 workers but it had reached a limit to which it could tie up capital in housing. There was a problem of workers lodged in the town who had families elsewhere. Added to this the regional Ministry Headquarters being stationed in Cambridge had created a demand for girls as clerks and typists

1948 11 26
For the first time anywhere in the world, a new series of television was used to promote road safely at Cambridge. Traffic scenes on Market Hill were televised to the Accident Prevention Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. “Closed-circuit” as it is called is the latest development of the Cambridge firm of Pye Ltd. Two cameras were operated, one fixed to the balcony of the Guildhall and the other on top of a van at the corner of Petty Cury. Along this narrow, one-way street, between 8am and 6pm approximately 7,000 bicycles and 2,000 other vehicles pass each weekday. The slow speed of the traffic and its one-way direction helps to keep the accident rate down

1949 02 12
The BBC have completed tests and accepted delivery of a new Outside Broadcast Control Vehicle from Pye ltd of Cambridge. Everything required for the production and transmission of a complete television broadcast is contained in this unique mobile unit, the most modern equipment of its kind in the world, including a set of three of the latest Pye turret-headed television cameras. It is the first Pye outside broadcast vehicle produced for the BBC and the first to go into regular service since the war.

1949 03 26
Television brought the boat race into thousands of homes with equipment produced by Pye Radio Ltd playing a prominent part. A Pye transmitter was on the launch “Conseuta” and the static cameras from

Barnes Bridge onwards were a product of the Cambridge firm. The relay was a tremendous success, with viewers sharing every one of the thrills of this greatest of all boat races. Approximately 600 people heard the broadcast in the Central Cinema. This evening there will be a free television show by Pye in the circle lounge

1949 03 29
A Cambridge firm has scored another technical triumph. The first demonstration of television in Australia was given in Melbourne with equipment made in Cambridge by Pye Ltd. The complete television transmitting station and a supply of receivers were flown to Australia. British enterprise has again won through in face of strong competition from America.

1949 04 29
Cambridge council were told that some 20 years ago Messrs Pye asked for the Church meadow, Chesterton, to build a factory. There was strong opposition in letters to the press. It was one of the beauty spots of "a drab place called Old Chesterton". It was pointed out then that the firm would spread out and that was what had happened. The land concerned was 2½ acres of valuable front land which the council purchased before the war and which the people of Chesterton were told was going to be a park. If the council did not sell the land Pye might move their factory. The decision to sell was confirmed.

1949 09 16
Sir - I should like to see a stop put to the continued attempts to introduce new industries and build up Cambridge into an administrative centre. No one can deny that the town centre is grossly overcrowded consequent upon the locust-like plague of foreigners and civil servants that have descended during and since the war years. Wherever the spread continues the town centre will still be the main shopping centre and conditions will steadily deteriorate until it becomes imperative to demolish and rebuild and so destroy the old and loved Cambridge with its unique old-world charm, and transform it into something unattractive and ordinary – "Simplicitas" 49 09 16

1949 09 27
A story of high-pressure work since last March under a top-secret cloak lies behind the announcement that Pye Ltd of Cambridge will give the first successful demonstration of colour television in this country at Radiolympia. Research into colour television has proceeded for a long time, but it was only in March that the decision was made to produce the intricate equipment required. The secrecy with which this work proceeded is indicated by the fact that Pye's employees themselves have not yet seen a demonstration. The firm say that colour television is still many years off 49 09 27

1949 11 01
Holford Report presented to Borough for consideration - "did not consult them while preparing it". Considerable disagreement

1949 11 08
Pye Ltd have entered the American television market as part of the British campaign for dollars. The equipment consists of a complete television station, including cameras and telecines to project films. A team of five technicians have gone and will help in the demonstrations along with two officials, Mr B.J. Edwards and Mr John Lakin who will demonstrate it to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

1949 11 29
Damage believed approaching £900,000 was done when fire destroyed several thousand of finished wireless sets, 300-400 television sets and numerous components stored in a hangar rented by Pye Ltd at the former stereo works in Madingley Road. A director said: "Many of the sets were for export. Included in the stock destroyed were several thousand television cabinets. Some of our telecommunication equipment was also stored there, including a complete set of blind landing equipment due to be shipped today" 49 11 29

1949 12 22
The Mayor of Cambridge, Ald W.G. James, spoke of the new town plan and said: "Planning has ceased to be a phase in our national existence; it tends to be a disease. Looking back through the ages I don't think Cambridge is really such a bad old town, and I think if the planning of our borough was left a little more to the people who live in it – and have to pay for that planning – that we should not make such a dreadful mess of it as people living outside think we might. Some of the current proposals are so drastic that if I come back in 100 years I shall not be able to recognise the Cambridge I knew. I believe in planning for the future, but to live in chaos for a generation for the sake of one's grandchildren is a little too altruistic"

1950

1950 02 11
Cambridge Instrument Company erect factory Finchley, 200 workers leave Cambridge as blocked by planning [1.7]

1950 03 01
A swifter and more efficient ambulance service is in action this week – thanks to radio control. This innovation, which has already proved its worth with the police and fire brigade, has had a successful trial with the county ambulance service. Radio control was fitted to their four ambulances and two utilicons by Pye Telecommunications and all vehicles are in constant call from the control room, newly equipped with receiver, transmitter and microphone. A number of Cambridge commercial firms have now followed the lead of Camtax in installing radio telephones and Cambridge must be among the world's most advanced towns in the field of radio control

1950 07 26
Cambridge Council is considering purchasing sites for industrial purposes at Brooklands Farm, between Cromwell Road and the railway and at Union Lane. The committee recommends the Union Lane site is more suitable for housing, Brooklands Farm is unsuitable for industry owing to drainage difficulties and that the Allotments Committee's views be sought on the Cromwell Road site. They also reject proposals for a site off Clarendon Road for the University Press printing works owing to traffic difficulties and the need to preserve the existing green wedge 50 07 26

1950 09 16
World's smallest milking machine made by H.E.M. Ltd, Ditton Walk [1.13]

1950 11 01
Mr C.O. Stanley, Managing Director of Pye Ltd told the Radio Industries Club luncheon, "we have now arrived at a time when we should put down a second television system in this country – a system which operates two programmes on the ultra-high frequency band, both in colour at the same time; one to be operated by the BBC and the other by commercial interests. We have to have alternatives, I don't think it is possible to put out a single programme and cover the tastes of everyone

1951 01 11
The Minister of Supply, Mr G.R. Strauss, toured Cambridge industry. He visited Pye Ltd, the Marshall organisation and the Cambridge Instrument Company and said he had been 'very favourably impressed by the spirit in all the works'. Although production of radio sets would be curtailed, work on the electronics side of rearmament would absorb employees affected. Rearmament made more demands on the aircraft and electronic industries than on most others, he said.

1951 01 19
Local firms are amongst those to whom the De Havilland enterprise has paid public tribute for their contribution in supplying parts for the two Comet jet airlines whose achievements have been acclaimed throughout the world as an outstanding example of British enterprise. They are Aero

research of Duxford, whose 'Redux' metal-to-metal bonding is used throughout the airframe, Magnetic Devises, Ditton Works, Cambridge who supply relays and Pye Ltd who developed micro-switches for the plane.

1951 07 27
Two hundred London taxis took the road this morning under orders for the first time, over a short wave radio network system pioneered by Pye Radio technicians from Cambridge. In London, at a big party attended by top stage and screen stars to celebrate the inauguration of this new radiocab service was Mr Harry Woolgar, a director of Pye Telecommunications Ltd. He said: "This is the largest radio-telephone system taxi network in Europe and we are planning a larger system capable of directing 1,000 taxis". Pye got the job because it pioneered fitting radio telephones to police cars and ambulances and was the first to use short-wave radio for agricultural use. 51 07 27

1951 08 22
Some of the world's leading television scientists are in Cambridge for a Convention at the Cavendish Laboratory. So far as can be seen, television receivers will never again be so cheap as they are today. New valves, new circuits and new T.V. cameras form part of the discussions; two papers have been written by members of local firms. Messrs J.E. Cope, L.W. Germany & R. Theile of Pye-Cathodeon will speak on the Image Iconoscope Type Television Camera Tube

1952 05 03
A hitherto undreamed-of use for the television camera unit – to facilitate under-water research and the location of wrecks – was demonstrated at Pye's Radio works. It was this type of camera which located the submarine Affray and was manipulated from the recovery vessel H.M.S. Reclaim. At present she is being fitted with additional Pye Radio T.V. equipment and when this is completed the BBC will arrange an outside broadcast from the ship. Its visual range is far greater than that of a diver and it can operate at a greater depth. For the purposes of the demonstration the camera was set up in front of a goldfish tank owing to the high mud content of the River Cam

1952 06 21
Mr Lloyd Stokes, owner of land at Trinity Hall Farm, Milton, said there were 140 armoured vehicles on the land waiting to be shipped. He wanted an access from Green Park because he had a number of tanks coming through the back and wished to enlarge the front entrance on to Milton Road. It was dangerous and an agricultural machine such as a 12-foot combine could not get through. The County council suggested the city should buy this piece of land and put there light industry, not likely to cause any nuisance. 52 06 21

1952 12 13
The inquiry into the County Development Plan has concluded. Its main object is the preservation of Cambridge as a University town & the deliberate prevention of its character becoming that of an industrial town or a town with large straggling suburbs. The problem of Cambridge was largely a traffic problem but measures to deal with this by the widening of streets would be a negation of the true object of planning which is to preserve the Cambridge we know today 52 12 13

1953 06 03
On Coronation Day Pye Ltd of Cambridge operated the first colour television outside broadcast ever done in this country. It was seen in a well-known Children's Hospital and several other selected places. Three colour cameras used in transmission were sited on top of Government buildings facing Parliament Square and Whitehall. Hundreds of people assembled in Cambridge Guildhall to watch the ceremony on television. The latest television screens were used. The picture was clear and precise but there was, of course, no control over the usual interference from electrical appliances which all TV owners are forced to suffer in silence. Six domestic TV sets were installed in the Corn Exchange and because of the bright light, shields were fitted around the screens 53 06 03

1953 09 08

Pye Ltd of Cambridge are showing on their stand at the Radio Show a 27-inch direct view cathode ray television receiver with automatic picture control. It is the largest ever seen in the country and will allow at least 200 people to watch in comfort. Pye have also provided a miniature 'staticon' television camera which is being used on the Celebrity Dais, the pictures being relayed throughout the exhibition.

1954 01 23
Pye Ltd of Cambridge has set up the first television station on the African continent, at Casablanca. It has also received another substantial order for cameras and equipment from the Japanese public service broadcaster. During last year alone Pye delivered equipment to many countries including the U.S.A., Italy, Belgium, Norway, Germany and France and the continuing expansion of television throughout the world promises to bring even more valuable export orders.

1954 02 04
Pye's new underwater television camera has been rushed to Italy to aid the search for the Comet airliner which crashed into the sea. It is more sensitive and much smaller than any previous model and had at the time of the crash hardly gone beyond the drawing-board stage, many of the parts had not even been made. Within six days a casing had been built for operation at a depth of 250 feet, all the parts had been made and the camera assembled. Information was then received that the Comet was probably lying 600 feet below the surface and consequently a much stronger case of different design was required. It was completed in seven days and flown out.
1954 05 04
Cambridgeshire Police have been experimenting with a radio equipped motor cycle. The wireless equipment supplied by Pye Telecom gives the same facilities as that fitted to police cars. A patrolling motor cycle officer hears his call on the set; pulls up and then can receive his message through a loudspeaker, or alternatively through the hand microphone he uses for his own transmission. The range of the radio is sufficient to cover any part of the county. If adopted it would enable motor cycles to be used for many duties which at present require radio cars

1954 07 19
Minister announces decision on County Development Plan, City Council challenge it in Court but is approved. Basic principles: Cambridge should remain principally a university city … to limit industrial expansion in & near Cambridge and to discourage the establishment of large industries of the mass-production type within the county (certain sites may be compulsorily purchased for purpose of rehousing those industries within city which require to be moved from existing sites);generally follow lines of original proposals submitted more than 2 years ago [18] [3.2,3.3,3.4]

1954 08 25
The first demonstration in Britain of 3-D television attracted large crowds to the Pye Radio works stand at the Radio and T.V. Exhibition at Earls Court, London. From a miniature studio built on a raised platform in the middle of the stand 3-D television pictures were being screened on experimental sets a few feet away. The viewers had to wear polarised spectacles. Pye do not expect sets to be on sale to the public in the near future; as a home entertainment 3-D television is a very long way off yet. At the moment they are perfecting it for use in industry

1954 10 15
Pye take first tv Middle East [1.8]

1955 01 26
Pye Telecommunications has just despatched the first consignment of equipment to the Sui Gas pipeline in West Pakistan. It includes an extensive communications system providing speech and teleprinter channels, a fixed-to-mobile scheme giving complete coverage of the pipeline route and a duplex HF radio-telephone between Karachi and Sui. Last year a team of Pye engineers completed a survey of the route and in a few weeks the installation team will be flying out for the final stage of the contract. 55 01 26

1955 08 20
Pye has produced a radio clock. It incorporates an electric alarm clock with a 5-amp socket so that either an electric fire or a tea maker can be set for the same time as the alarm, which switches on the radio automatically. It operates on the medium waveband with one pre-set long wave station and has a 'sleep switch' to enable it to be turned off automatically when the owner falls asleep. 55 08 20b

1955 09 10
Pye demonstrated their new aircraft instrument landing system with a series of flights in Dakotas between Cambridge and the De Havilland works at Hatfield. The trips are also open to factory staff so they can see how the system allows the pilot to land without having to be 'talked down' from the ground. They had barely time to unfasten the seat belts, say 'Thank you' to the air hostess for packets of 20 cigarettes and the treble scotches before a loudspeaker commentary was started on the landing. 55 09 10a-b

1955 12 16
Gray's celebrate centenary [2.2]

1955 12 17
Unicam Instruments celebrated its 21st birthday; it had started in a stables on St Andrew's Hill, Cambridge. Despite setbacks, when paying the staff became a problem, the firm thrived. At the outbreak of war, after a skirmish with the Ministry of Aircraft Production, they acquired Riley House opposite the Tivoli Cinema. Finance problems arose again and they established a relationship with Pye Ltd. 55 12 17a

1956 02 11
Pye's new television camera is the first of its kind anywhere. It's designed to see inside a nuclear reactor and much ingenuity has gone into its manufacture. The camera will not become radio-active, but the dust it collects from the inside of the pile will be dangerous so it will be washed with detergent after use. 56 02 11b

1956 03 21
Councillors want to acquire land at Coldham's Lane to resite existing industry from the East Road and Lion Yard area. Previously the land's only use was agricultural but there would be no difficulty in selling the land for industry. There had been plans for housing development on the north side of Church End but would probably now never take place. The present houses in Rosemary Lane were on cesspools and the council put in a foul sewer. 56 03 21a-d

1956 04 14
A robot cigarette lighter which works when it is whistled to has been installed in the Earl Grey public house by a Pye research engineer. For those who cannot whistle it will oblige when the word 'light' is spoken to it; it will even light a cigar, but puts its foot down when confronted with a pipe. The small, one-valve gadget, is also a money collector for the blind people of Cambridge. 56 04 14a

1956 05 11
Cambridge Instrument Company develop electrocardiograph [11.1]

1956 12 01
New equipment developed by Pye of Cambridge means that six times as many people can use radio communications and foreshadows immense developments. Telephones for the use of the travelling public in aeroplanes, railways and road services are now a possibility and a radio-telephone could become a standard fitting in all road vehicles, C.O. Stanley predicted. 56 12 01b

1957 01 05

Pye has designed a special camera to enable engineers at Calder Hall to carry out an extremely complicated inspection inside a nuclear reactor. It has been reduced to under 24 inches in length so it can form part of a mechanical grab which will be lowered into the fuel channels of the graphite core to remove obstructions 57 01 05 & 05a

1957 02 22
The long association of Pye and King and Harper of Cambridge will be celebrated in a 'Pye Parade' exhibition at Harper's Bridge Street premises. The highlight will be a specially-erected television studio and each evening programmes of local interest will be transmitted. The shows can be viewed on receivers in many parts of the premises with a limited number of seats in the studio itself. 57 02 22

1957 05 04
A Pye Magnetic Tape Data Store will be shown at an Exhibition at Olympia. It is the first to incorporate electro-pneumatic tape control allowing very high-speed movement. They were commissioned to produce six special units for experimental work in computer design and development. One has been delivered to the University Mathematical Laboratory for use with their new powerful computer EDSAC II. 57 05 04

1958
Spillers new Central Laboratory Station Rd [2.17]

1958 04 18
Stereophonic sound on disc sold at popular prices and played on equipment within the reach of most people – that is the revolutionary event just announced. The first public demonstration will be given at the London Audio Fair using equipment specially designed by Pamphonic Reproducers Ltd and Pye who are to issue both popular and classical stereophonic records. In the home loudspeakers can be placed about the width of a fireplace apart and listeners sitting more than nine feet away will get the full 3D effect. 58 04 18a

1958 07 09
Cantabrian Athletics equipment made by the London Instrument Company of Newnham Mill will be used at the British Empire Games at Cardiff. It includes pole vault standards, hammers, javelins and gauges for the high jump. Much of it was designed by Henry Rottenburg, the owner of the firm which moved to Cambridge in 1910. They have also supplied the Olympic Games and European Championships. 58 07 09a

1958 08 22
A portable short-range guided missile intended to be used against armoured vehicles has been produced by Pye Limited. It incorporates rocket motors with a new jet steerage system and is guided to its target by thin wires which carry signals from a controller's "joystick". It can be fitted with periscopic binoculars which switch from low to high-powered magnification as the missile travels away from the launcher. Many successful test firings have taken place and it can go into production on receipt of orders. 58 08 22c

1959 08 25
A fuel cell which produces useful quantities of electricity by consuming hydrogen and oxygen has been invented by F.T. Bacon of Lt Shelford and developed by Marshall's under a National Development Corporation contract. The present cell, containing two electrodes immersed in a solution of caustic soda or potash, is still in its rudimentary stages but it can supply enough electricity to operate a circular saw, a fork lift truck or even carry out welding. The Americans are interested in using it for manned space stations or space rockets. 59 08 25 & a

1959 09 21
High-ranking Service officials, including some from Russia, went for a 20-minute helicopter ride over Cambridge without moving from the comfortable dining rooms of the University Arms Hotel. They

watched one of the first-ever air to ground television transmissions carried out by Pye Radio from a Bristol Sycamore. The pictures were broadcast to several 21 inch screens and showed the view from 1,100 ft. before zooming down to catch an express train just leaving the station. 56 09 21, 21a

1959 10 15
Cambridge Instrument Company opened its new research headquarters in Chesterton Road. Its four floors comprise laboratories for the development of instruments for mechanical engineering, electronics and physical chemistry together with a specious drawing office. It was a tribute to the unswerving devotion of the men who had worked there over the last 80 years, said Lord Adrian, University Vice-Chancellor. He had declined the use of a car and arrived on bicycle for the opening ceremony where he was presented with a compass 59 10 15c

1959 10 28
Thousands of new Anglia Television viewers are unaware that almost every piece of equipment that goes into the transmitting of the programmes was built in the Cambridge factories of Pye Limited. The Norwich studies are equipped with their cameras and control gear and 'remote' programmes use Pye mobile outside broadcast units. This is the latest version of the most successful unit ever produced and over 50 have been sold to television networks all over the world. 59 10 28b

1959 11 05
Pye Instrument Group engineers have designed a remarkable new piece of medical equipment, the Barnet Ventilator, to assist polio sufferers. Polio causes paralysis of the respiratory muscles and patients have had to be put in an iron lung. But now they can be linked to the ventilator by two plastic tubes and breathing is precisely kept within physiological limits. The machine has built-in batteries from which its transistorised circuit will run up to twenty hours allowing patients to be moved without difficulty. It can also be used in operating theatres for the administration of anaesthetics. 59 11 05a

1959 11 06
Did you ever build a television station, or a radio-telephone, or equipment for an atomic reactor? And have you ever been involved in helping ships at sea, providing entertainment for the home – or bouncing speech off the moon? Thousands of people who live in East Anglia are doing this sort of thing every day at W.G. Pye. It is one of 60 companies which make up the Pye Group whose name is respected all over the world for achievements in radio, television, telecommunications, nucleonics and electronics generally. 59 11 06c & d

1959 12 05
The Westminster Bank in Manchester has introduced the first permanent inter-branch television network. Customers can check their accounts on private television screens which relay pictures from a centralised book-keeping department a mile away. The system has been supplied by the Pye Industrial Television Division and features a small camera which looks downwards, by means of a mirror, at cheques placed on a desk. It incorporates a sound system so the operator can hold instant two-way conversations with the customer. 59 12 05a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960
Cambridge Consultants formed; expand 60% pa till move to first Bar Hill factory 1968, first commercially established contract research & development company in country, move Science Park79; Minto left CC to form Domino [7.6, 8.4]

1960 03 16
One of the landmarks of Cambridge which has overlooked the city for about 60 years was demolished. The 100-foot chimney on the Newmarket Road once belonged to one of the city's brickworks which closed down about a year ago owing to the lack of clay. A large portion of the base

of the chimney was cut away and propped up by wooden supports. These were then set alight using paraffin and wood shavings and smoke gushed from the top of the chimney for the last time before it fell slowly and gracefully to the ground. The actual kilns have already been demolished to make way for Watts and Son, timber importers 60 03 16

1960 05 03
Light industries already accommodated in Cambridge may be moved to a site to the east of Milton Road. S.G.B. have applied for eight plots for workshops on land used for breaking up Army vehicles. Part is used by the Cambridge Pre-Cast Stone Company and is within the proposed Green Belt. It is an area of no great beauty, is primarily derelict and very little use for anything else, an Inquiry was told. 60 05 03b

1960 06 13
Pye engineers envisage vastly improved overseas telecommunications by the use of space satellites and the moon, complete newspapers transmitted during the night through existing television sets and the establishment of more than 100 local broadcasting stations. Active relay equipment to be carried in a space vehicle is practicable now. Their design requires a single valve operated from solar cells and could be easily launched by the Blue Streak missile. It would bring undreamed-of improvements in world-wide communications, J.R. Brinkley of Pye Telecommunications told a conference. 60 06 13

1960 08 04
Pye Telecommunications scientists are considering sending satellites into outer space so that high frequency radio waves can be 'bounced' off them and make television transmissions between England and America an everyday occurrence. It would enable clear messages to be sent to any part of the world without long-range interference. A number of civilised countries had no effective methods of communicating with one another and the radio-telephone system would cut costs, W.K. Stevenson told businessmen 60 08 04b

1960 08 25
The credit squeeze is a serious attack on industry, C.O. Stanley, chairman of Pye Ltd told the annual meeting. The sales of TV sets are down which must affect profits. But when the electronics side of the business was established 12 years ago they had little idea how successful it would be. Communications makes possible bouncing messages off the moon and the devilish weapons of the future can be controlled only by electronics. Shareholders were then taken on nation-wide tour of the company's factories by closed-circuit T.V. 60 08 25

1960 09 06
Marshall of Cambridge Electronics develop analyser used in nuclear physics – 60 09 06

1960 09 22
Cathodeon Crystals open at Linton after being told cannot build factory in Cambridge [6.1]

1960 10 14
The first full-size completely portable television is made by Pye of Cambridge. It has a 14-inch screen, covers all the usual BBC & ITA channels and includes a built-in aerial. It can be operated entirely from a built-in battery or connected to a car-battery system. It uses super modern transistors which are spreading rapidly through the development laboratories and production lines. One day there may be 'all-round' tv sets in 3D and colour, the company predicts 60 10 14a

1960 10 29
Pye-Ekco merger [27]

1960 11 30

'Telex' is the system businesses use for sending printed messages to one another – a kind of private telegraph service by which the operating of a typewriter keyboard at one end produces a typed impression on a roll of paper at the other. It is used by 40 local subscribers including Cambridge police, Pye, Fisons, Corrugated Cases at Histon, Herbert Robinson and the American Air Force. Now it has been converted to automatic working so by a simple dialling action followed by some work on the keyboard a business in Cambridge can send a typed message to an associate in Glasgow 60 11 30

1961 01 02
The warehouses of Radio and Television Services Ltd, Gloucester Street, were gutted by fire. Scores of people living nearby went into their gardens as showers of sparks and splinters from exploding radio valves and television tubes showered down on their premises and residents of Clare Street used garden hoses to prevent the fire endangering their garden sheds. Arthur Brett (80) said the blaze and noise was just like the battle of the Somme. Employees will be moved to other buildings in the Pye group and there will be no serious interruption in the repair and servicing facilities operated by the company. The two-storey high building also houses a technical school for overseas radio experts.61 01 02c

1961 04 07
At the Lister works in Abbey Road they like to take on smaller, unique, prototype jobs. Men were making parts for the Emeryson racing car, parts to go into the focussing mechanism of television cameras and gear-rings of enormous diameter for some special task which would have required too much disruption for a great factory to undertake. Elsewhere others were making a mysterious stainless steel tent for one of the University laboratories while in the drawing office a draughtsman was working out production details for a machine which nuns will use to cut and bake the very thin altar-breads for the Catholic Mass. 61 04 07d

1961 08 21
The Earls Court Radio Show features two 'smallest-ever Pye Pocketable' sets whose transistors and printed circuits make them smart travelling companions. One has a black morocco leather case, the other moulded plastic. They cover Long and Medium wavebands and have a two-inch loudspeaker. The Pye TV range are designed to be easily convertible to 625 lines and include 'Transista TVs' with 23 inch square tubes bringing added realism to television. 61 08 21

1961 12 14
Pye launch domestic equipment 61 12 14

1962
Trinity Hall Farm Industrial estate designated; bought compulsory by city but Whitehall limit use to firms displaced by council redevelopment 72 11 30 [13.2]

1962
Sinclair founded; started with miniature radio sets

1962 04 07
Pye components on first space research satellite – 62 04 07

1962 04 14
The new Scientific Instrument Centre comprising laboratories and factories of Unicam Instruments and W.G. Pye in York Street were opened. The two small companies, both members of the Pye Group, have won international renown. Unicam is one of the leading manufacturers in the world of photo-electric spectroscopic instruments while W.G. Pye is making a major contribution towards improved accuracy of physical measurements and in the field of chemical analysis. They have more than 1,000 employees with exports exceeding £1m during the last financial year. 62 04 14 marks stage in development which widens horizons for collaboration of science & industry; could be equally fruitful for both [19] [1.12]

1962 05 22
Jerzy Kazimerz Starnecki, the chief engineer and head of development at W.G. Pye, York Street, was born in Poland and served with their armed forced during the war. In 1947 he joined Pye as leader of a small team engaged in problems encountered in armoured fighting vehicles. He was responsible for the design of a complete new optical system used in the gunsight of the Conqueror tank, servo-controlled automatic stabilising gear and the C 42 Army V.H.F. communications set. His far-sighted thinking and sound engineering knowledge influenced the design of many instruments, one of his latest products being a multi-way rotary switch 62 05 22

1962 08 10
Cambridge Instrument Company history feature – 62 08 10 & a

1962 08 16
The Cam Foundry in Thompson's Lane once had 20 men making cast iron, lamp posts, grating and road ironworks. Friday was the usual day for mould filling. The fire could be kindled in the cupola early in the morning and loaded up with hard furnace coke. The furnaceman was a real 'character'. A labourer, tough and very strong he would swing a 32 lb hammer to break up the scrap and pig iron. He distained the use of gloves or goggles, his bare hands and unprotected eyes in constant danger from molten splashes and sparks. It closed in 1923 and Messrs Macintosh transferred the business to the old Romsey Town Cement Works at Mill Road 62 08 16a & b

1962 09 08
A familiar landmark of the Cambridge skyline is being taken down. The Pye mast was built at the start of the war to help them develop defence systems and also broadcast very low power experimental television programmes. It was originally 185 feet tall but extra aerials were added. At the top is a small cabin used to house experimental equipment and large enough for a man to work in. The mast will be replaced with a later type suitable for newest television techniques. 62 09 08a

1962 10 11
Master-slave manipulators for radio-active material featured in 'Dr No' made by Pye 62 10 11

1962 12 14
Mr E.J. Wesley Coe was a glass-blower for one of the University laboratories who practiced his craft at home, making quaint little animals and glass pipettes for artificial insemination. In 1952 he formed his own company making electronic valve components for the radio industry and apparatus for the semi-conductor field. Soon he was employing a dozen people and now supplies the needs of the most recent Nobel prize-winners, the Admiralty, Air Ministry, atomic energy and radio industry at home and abroad 62 12 14a

1963 01 22
London Instrument Company manufactures athletics equipment in the Old Mill, Newnham Pond. It employs 30 people annually producing 5,000 hurdles, 1,500 javelins as well as starting blocks and shots. It was founded by Henry Rottenburg in 1911, Fellow of Kings and lecturer in the University Engineering Laboratories. In collaboration with the University Athletic Club they developed a long jump measuring device, scoreboards and an ill-fated starting gate which nearly strangled a competitor. 63 01 22c

1963 02 01
Simpers rope works in New Street was established 200 years ago to meet the demand for tow-ropes for horse-drawn barges which plied along the Cam. They were made by hand on the Ropewalk which once marked the borough boundary. Today, with the coming of machinery, they are among the biggest rope and fibre merchants in the country making canvas covers for lorries, marquees, tents & flags. Since the war tremendous development has taken place in the agricultural ironmongery

department where farmers can find cattle-troughs, shovels or forks and builders buy barrows, water-proof clothing and nuts.63 02 01a

1963 04 17
Often youngsters who fail the eleven-plus choose an apprenticeship in the engineering industry. They start in a company at age 15 and serve a 12 month's probationary period after which the normal apprenticeship runs until their 21st birthday. They will study at a Further Educational Centre one day a week and also attend classes one or two nights. W.G. Pye and Unicam have played an important role in maintaining and improving standards in their large and well-equipped apprenticeship schools and more recently Pye has opened an entirely new Training Centre to cater for apprentices throughout their group. 63 04 17c

1963 05 22
Plans by the Pye Group to tour the country with their new mobile 625-line television transmitter and studio have been blocked by the Post Office who says they do not have a licence. It was launched in Cambridge when the Mayor, Ald Hickson, became the first public figure to appear on the system. The whole of the television industry has been devoted to the development of the new equipment which was featured at the last Radio Show. Pye has called for the ban to be immediately reversed 63 05 22

1963 07 24
Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon came to Cambridge to watch television cameras and electronic equipment being made at the Pye factory, St Andrews Road. A small industrial closed circuit television camera was trained on them when Lord Snowdon asked to have a go. The Princess then focussed it on a group of press photographers. A great burst of cheering went up when Lord Snowdon went over to attractive Mrs Jean Keeble who was working on a television assembly line. "I was absolutely thrilled", she said. 63 07 24 & a

1963 09 05
The Pye 625 mobile television test station which was closed by the Post Office in May, is to start broadcasting again. Agreement has been reached with the G.P.O. over a broadcasting licence for the station which will start a tour of the Midlands. The station, which was first publicly shown at Cambridge, will transmit pictures and captions together with commentaries to inform the public about 625-line television. 63 09 05

1963 09 27
Pye Printed Motors Ltd formed to manufacture electric servo motors - 63 09 27

1963 09 27
Pye Develop television telephone 63 09 27

1964 05 13
Pye group in the space race – 64 05 13d

1964 07 17
Pye equipment used in 1st commercial radio station on Isle of Man, closed down 64 07 17

1964 07 21
Cam Controls of Ainsworth Place, are a small company in what is a virtually new electrical industry. They specialise in control equipment for heating, ventilating and air conditioning and have fulfilled a contract for a New Delhi college and an aircraft testing building at Farnborough where the Concord is undergoing trials. They train their own staff as it is impossible to find men experienced in this kind of work and take a pride in their maintenance service.64 07 21a

1964 08 07

A transistorised nuclear reactor developed by Pye Ltd is cheap yet provides immense opportunities in the field of research. It will produce short-lived isotopes for medical diagnosis and neutron activation. The reactor was built under licence to an American company and modified to raise the power to 100 kilowatts. In the event of overheating, boiling water within the reactor shuts down the output of the pile. Accidentally-dropped radio-active material is far more likely to bring the warning system into use that uncontrolled goings-on within the system. 64 08 07 64 07 30

1964 08 19
Cambridge Consultants set up 4 years ago in back streets, now has 21 staff [3.1]

1964 09 16
Pye Thermal Bonders formed – 64 09 16a

1964 09 26
Unicam blacklisted by Russia because of dealings with Greville Wynne who sentenced for spying – 64 09 26a

1964 11 02
Pye Electrical is to go into the twin tub washing machine market with a model that will sell for 49 guineas (about £910 at today's prices). The specification is very similar to that of the Rolls washing machine which went out of production when John Bloom's company collapsed. It is finished in white enamel and fitted with twin tubs and aluminium lids. Simple controls are fitted to the top, right hand corner of the front panel and a table top is available as an extra. 64 11 02a

1964 11 13
Eastern Electricity's new Fens Sub-Area control room knocks spots off the old system used at Thompson's Lane. A huge panel displays the entire electrical network while control desks have radio communications and lists of emergency engineering staff who can be called out. There is a standby generator which starts automatically should the main power fails. All this is the work of Pye Ltd. There is not a second when it is left empty. But it is unlikely that full-scale automation will ever be introduced. 64 11 13

1964 12 04
Cambridge Instrument Company has developed the 'Stereoscan', the first commercial scanning electron microscope. It is a result of whole-hearted co-operation between university departments and a Cambridge firm with the ability to develop a proved commercial product. Work was begun in 1952 and now the first model has been bought by the Du Pont de Nemour and Company of America 64 12 04b

1965 02 04
Marshall's on knife-edge due Government cut P1154 jump jet [14.6]

1965 02 08
A great deal of money is spent on training scientists at the university and village colleges. If light industrial firms were encouraged to come to Cambridge and set up small factories employing 50 people, there would be a ready supply of skilled technicians, creating better employment prospects, says Coun. Ron Thulborn of Fulbourn. He is against heavy industry. The city council has been pressing county planners to lift their ban on industrial development. But they say it would alter the whole concept of Cambridge as a university town and allow it to grow in size out of hand 65 02 08b

1965 04 13
TR-2 men at Marshall's sacked following Government cancellation project – 65 04 13a

1965 05 22
Pye hi-fi stereoscopic record projection system flourishes 65 02 22b

1965 05 27
Metals Research Ltd to close sites at King Street and Milton and open at Melbourn. The firm, which has a world lead in the production of metal single crystals was formed in 1957 and now employs 120 workers – 65 05 27

1965 10 14
Pye not to spend large sums on colour television until Government reach decision on future – 65 10 14a

1966
Cambridge Computer Services set up, (taken over by Geest 1976) 76 01 26 [8.3]

1966 04 04
Pye incur large losses in radio and television side of group – 66 04 04

1966 04 19
Pye respond to report of resignations following large losses – 66 04 19, 19b

1966 04 21
Pye Telecommunications and Unicam Instruments granted Queen's Award for Industry – 66 04 21b

1966 05 04
Charles Orr Stanley replaced as chairman of Pye by Francis Duncan – 66 05 04

1966 05 15
Cambridge Consultants form new company Aim Electronics, (into liquidation 1971) [8.4]

1966 08 17
Sinclair launches smallest tv [4.8]

1966 08 22
Sinclair Radionics mini-tv shown at Television and Radio Show at Earl's Court – 66 08 22

1966 09 03
George Lister engineering moves from Abbey Road to Coldham's Lane, been there since 1890 – feature – 66 09 03a

1966 09 07
Pye pocket radio-telephone exhibited – 66 09 07

1966 10 25
£1m dive in Pye share value; dissatisfaction with new management – 66 10 25

1966 11 10
300a Science Park proposed by University [4.9]

1966 11 17
Pye urged to appoint Receiver following losses if to remain independent – 66 11 11; J.O. Stanley voted off Pye's Board – 66 11 17, 61 11 18

1966 11 24
Pye shares rise as big international take-over battle develops; bid from Philips – 66 11 24a, c

1967 01 14

Bright future for 26 year old; Sinclair Radionics established HQ Cambridge a year ago; announce miniature tv & digital watch - 67 01 1 [21]

1967 02 17
Philips win take-over battle for Pye, set up Pye Holdings 62 07 17
30 separate Pye group companies classified A & B, the As being larger & producing finished goods - Pye - Telecom (mobile radio equipment), Unicam (scientific instrumentation), TVT (broadcast equipment) TMC (telephone equipment) & Business communications (intercoms, pa, security surveillance cameras etc. B include Cathodeon, Cathodeon Crystals, Labgear, Pye Electro-devices, Thermal Bonders & Varelco. A companies report direct Philips London, B to have new Cambridge HQ. 79 10 30

1967 10 02
Pye chairman F.R. Duncan who took over from C.O. Stanley in May last year now hands over to Peter Thoneycroft, chairman of Pye Holdings, the Company set up by Philips to control Pye following their take-over – 67 10 02

1967 12 28
Hovertrain development work on city site with linear motor test rig Ditton Walk 1970, (reaches 106 mph but threatened cuts, scrapped 1973, confirmed 1974) [12.1]

1968 01 01
Cambridge manufacturing operations of the Cambridge Instrument Company Ltd groups under a new subsidiary called Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd – 68 01 01a

1968 04 30
Instrument Company takeover bid by Rank; outbid by George Kent [11.1]

1968 06 14
Government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation buys shares in Cambridge Instrument Company following bid by George Kent firm of instrument makers – 68 06 14, 68 07 09

1968 07 01
Pye Unicam formed through merger W.G. Pye & Co. Ltd and Unicam Instruments – 68 07 01

1968 08 02
"Mini industrial estate may be erected" [3.3]

1968 09 11
Aim Associates Cambridge Ltd, formerly Cambridge Consultants, form new company, AIM Physical Sciences – 68 09 11

1968 10 14
Prosser Scientific Instruments may move because of veto on industrial development – 68 10 14

1968 11 01
Pye Group – 400 jobs at Pye Telecommunications and Combined Electronic Services – 68 11 01

1969
Pye want to develop on Trinity Milton Rd (Science Park) site

1969
Laser Scan founded by three Cavendish Laboratory scientists, designed own equipment & finance from Technical Development Capital, (first on Science Park, 73 03 20, Laser Scan move bigger premises Science Park 86 02 12)

1969 01 31
Lloyd Stokes sells land at Trinity Hall industrial site; as farmland would be worth £130 an acres, now sold for £200,000 – 69 01 31

1969 02
Pye Telecom develop pocket phones [19]

1969 02 11
Industrialists asked to support University's fight to throw off Cambridge's restrictions on industrial growth [3.5]

1969 02 20
Marshall Group a combination of aircraft work, shipping container manufacture, commercial bodies & research & development work on ministry vehicles project [15.1]

1969 04 29
Combined Electronic Services factory, part of Pye group, closes – 69 04 29

1969 06 20
Pye want to develop on Trinity Milton Rd (Science Park) site 69 06 20

1969 10 10
Prosser move Hadleigh due planning veto on industrial development Cambridge [9.9]

1969 10 22
University-commissioned Mott report - chaired by Sir Nevill Mott, then head of Cavendish Laboratory - called for development of science-based industry; immediately after publication Trinity idntified130a site - former tank marshalling site during war - which became Science Park [3.4, 4.4, 4.3]

1969 11 06
Pye establish new computer centre opposite St Andrew's Road HQ – 69 11 06

1970

1970 01 09
County to ease ban on city industry, approve science-based industry – 70 01 09, 09a

1970 02 20
15a scrap pit, Coldham's Lane to be developed for commercial use [446.11.1]

1970 04 02
Applied Research of Cambridge set up by members of Centre Land Use & Built Form Studies, probably first such formed; (20students put £100 each into company, by 1984 profits £0.5m; taken over by McDonnell Douglas 1985) [7.1]

1970 04 25
Trinity College plan 13a Science Park on land formerly military tank park & minor gravel excavation [494.5.17] - 70 04 25a

1970 05 05
"Cambridge does not need more industry" - County councillor opposing Science Park [13.1]

1970 05 14

Kent Cambridge Scientific set up in USA to market electron probe made by Cambridge Scientific Instruments – 70 05 14

1970 10 10
Pye Unicam redundancies follow news of sacking at Cambridge Scientific Instruments – 70 10 10

1970 10 13
Planners may ease band on industrial development; suggest land be earmarked for science industry park – 70 10 13a

1970 11 03
City Electrical Factors join queue for development site [6.5]

1970 12 11
Pye have 10% share colour tv market 70 12 11

1971
Cambridge Instrument Company develops stereoscan electron beam microscope

1971
Sinclair turnover £100M but profits down; set up new computer bureau - Cambridge Data Processing

1971 01 21
Pye plan new complex for production, storage and offices in St Andrew's Road – 71 01 21

1971 02 26
Pye sack 250 Cambridge area, rising costs [18]

1971 04 05
Pye Group turnover £100M but profits down - 71 04 05

1971 04 13
Cambridge Instrument Company sack 150; follows Pye redundancies earlier – 71 04 13

1971 04 16
Pye set up new computer bureau - Cambridge data processing 71 04 16

1971 05 04
Sinclair move to St Ives

1971 05 17
County dash city's hopes for more industry "heavy door of Cambridgeshire planning bureaucracy was slammed shut on ...hopes of attracting more industry" [494.6.3]

1971 07 24
Pye Unicam close Kings Lynn factory, 168 redundant - 71 07 24

1971 08 24
Science Park will not be stopped by Government, (approved by planners 1972) [494.6.5]

1971 09 13
Cambridge Microfilm Services a success story, set up two years ago – 71 09 13

1971 09 13
Aim Electronics, Cambridge Consultants company set up in 1966, goes, into liquidation 1971

1971 12 07
Mackay plans to extend engineering factory and build more shops and offices on East Road blocked – 71 12 07a

1971 02 18
Stokes plans develop 20a industrial estate opposite proposed Science Park, (failed to get permission) [10.1]

1972 02 26
Production of the noses of the Concorde supersonic airliner, which was planned to be in Cambridge, has been taken away by the British Aircraft Corporation. All the research and development work on the nose has been done by Marshall's at Cambridge airport. The senior shop steward is to see the Cambridge MP, Mr David Lane to try to get the decision reversed

1972 03 22
BBC order Pye TVT transmitters

1972 04 26
Pye colour tv, p13

1972 06 29
A Mid-Anglia firm claim to have pocketed a world market with a new electronic calculator announced yesterday in London. Sinclair Radionics Ltd of St Ives Mill, who are mainly known for their hi-fi equipment, launched the Sinclair Executive calculator, which is smaller than a 5p bar of chocolate. The Executive is 5 1/2 inches long, 2 inches wide and just over 1/4 inch thick, and will easily fit in the breast pocket of a suit. It will sell for £70. The calculator uses 7,000 transistors, 10 times as many as in the normal colour television set. The calculator has an illuminated display of up to eight digits. It will add, subtract, divide and multiply instantaneously, p12

1972 07 29
The Department of the Environment have squashed a plan to develop a 20-acre industrial estate in Milton Road, Cambridge, opposite Trinity College's proposed 13-acre science park. Bitter controversy has shadowed the scheme from the start. It was first approved by Cambridge City Council but later vetoed by the County Council who said they had already earmarked sufficient land for industry. The planning permission was for construction of roads and sewers as a first step to an industrial estate being sought by Stokes of Cambridge ltd. When they were turned down by the County council they appealed to Whitehall and a public inquiry was held in February this year

1972 09 22
Cambridge Instrument Company Medical division becomes separate company - Kent

1972 01 13
Cambridge Consultants sold to American Arthur D. Little organisation – 72 01 13

1972 08 11
First stage of industrial & warehouse development at Ditton Walk nears completion [3.7]

1972 09 22
Cambridge Instrument Company Medical division becomes separate company - Kent Cambridge Medical Ltd [11.1]

1972 10 12
A charge that they are workshy has been levelled against the unemployed of Cambridge by a shop stewards committee representing the largest engineering business in the city, Marshall of Cambridge.

The senior union men are angry at the inability of their firm to find sufficient labour to maintain an important long-term Government contract. They cannot understand why with 897 registered unemployed in Cambridge it is proving impossible for Marshalls and other firms in the area to fill their labour needs. They ask "Do the men rally want work? Or do they have sidelines which make it unnecessary for them to take up jobs paying up to £30 a week?"

1972 11 30
Trinity Hall Farm Industrial estate designated 10 years ago, still only 2 firms with premises there; bought compulsory by city but Whitehall limit use to firms displaced by council redevelopment [13.2]

1973 01 08
Pye Telecommunications of Cambridge have opened a Middle East office to service their expanding interest in that part of the world. The office in Beirut, capital of Lebanon, opened for business on Monday. Their director of International Marketing said "Pye Telecommunications look upon the Middle East as a key territory in their international operations and intend from these arrangement to provide an improved service for their existing and potential customers throughout the territory"

1973 01 11
Industrial development on 16a Coldham's Lane to be launched by J. Coral Estates, (completed 1982); site bought 1948 for pence, mid 1960s attempt build shopping centre without success; 1963 bought by development co. seven acres £100,000; Sept1972 sold Coral £300.000 [3.7,4.1,6.4]

1973 01 13
Pye of Cambridge Ltd have become the first company in the modern electronics industry to be granted armorial bearings. They grant which has royal assent has been made in recognition of the company's contribution to the nation. One reason for Pye receiving this rare distinction was their role in designing and producing equipment which helped to bring the Second World War to a close. They switched their production to inventing and making military equipment and by setting up a village network of 14,000 people. They led the field in radio location, radar, bombing aids, radio communications, and one of the first guided missile devices

1973 03 05
Sinclair Radionics Ltd, whose launch of a miniature electronic calculator less than a year ago bred a host of imitators on the market, are still cock-a-hoop. For today, with eight month sales behind the, the St Ives firm still dominates the market, sending out from their riverside mill factory each month more than half the United Kingdom sales. Now the firm have hit harder still at their competitors with a £20 reduction to £59. The executive calculator is smaller than a 5p bar of chocolate. It uses 7,000 transistors, 10 times as many as in the normal colour television set

1973 03 06
One of the largest single orders - £2.1 million - ever placed to a Pye group company has been won by Pye TVT Ltd of Coldham's Lane, Cambridge, to supply colour television equipment to the government of South Korea. Many Far East observers believe that Korea could be expanding industrially to the point where it could become another Japan so the long-term prospects for business there seem very good. The contract is for a full colour television installation for the national broadcasting system. TVT will supply four colour television studios, a monochrome studio, colour and monochrome cameras, mobile studios, a master control and associated equipment. It also covers the training of Korean engineers

1973 03 20
Laser-Scan Ltd, who will become the first Cambridge company to move on to the Trinity Collage science park at Milton Road, are a typical science-based concern. Founded in 1969 the Company was the brainchild of three Cavendish Laboratory scientists. They could not afford the type of equipment which could do the work they wanted, so decided to design their own apparatus and get it made. Within two years they had established firmly the principles they wished to follow, within two further

years they had built the necessary working equipment, known as a "sweepnik". However a firm cannot stand still and the firm hopes to be in their 5,000 square feet factory on the Science Park by the end of the summer. As a high-technology business Laser-Scan are precisely what the planners have in mind for the science Park. Work on laying the spine road and sewers began this month and developers hope to have the first phase completed by August. When fully developed the 13-acre site is planned to provide up to sixteen factory units. Trinity College expect the final development to provide jobs for up to 1,000 people 73 03 20

1973 03 27
The Pye group intend to maintain their workforce at about 23,600, the chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, said today. This followed four years of staff pruning in which 6,000 people have lost their jobs. Since the Philips takeover in February 19sixtyseven a policy of rationalisation has been carried out in all companies and operations within the Pye group. Staff cuts were made from a peak of 29,636 employees in 1969. Over the past five years sales per employee have almost doubled and trading profit has shot up from 8.4 to 22.4 per cent

1973 06 18
Marshall of Cambridge (Engineering) have just finished a nose transplant - on a giant Hercules transport aircraft. The successful transplant "operation" took two years to perform. The modified aircraft will investigate turbulence in clear and cloudy weather and is the only one of its kind. Inside the Hercules the transformation has been no less striking. A laboratory has been constructed and four scientists can keep track of data as it flows from the nose instruments to the aircraft's "brain centre"

1973 06 28
A £750,000 deal has been signed for Sinclair Radionics Ltd, of St Ives, to supply more than 30,000 electronic pocket calculators to Japan over the next 18 months. Sinclair, who claim to be the largest European manufacturer of electronic calculators say that the order will mean a 50 per cent increase in the present staff of 120. To help with production they have just taken a lease on a second factory at St. Ives. Mr Clive Sinclair claims the Executive is the world's smallest pocket calculator - it is the size of a 5p bar of chocolate. It sells at a price which puts it at the top end of the market in Japan, in line with their policy of selling a product which has quality and features which make it a prestigious purchase

1973 07 24
There are 17 vacancies for every unemployed school leaver in Cambridgeshire, it was disclosed yesterday. The principal careers advisory officer, Miss G. Miller, said the jobs glut had highlighted last year's raising of the school leaving age. Most of the vacancies were in shop and offices. Jobs were also plentiful in manufacturing industry - chiefly unskilled labour. A spokesman for Pye, who employ more than 6,000 workers in Cambridge, confirmed they were having difficulties in recruiting school leavers

1973 08 14
Just how important is one product in the range of a group which has 40 companies turning out a whole range of products? The answer for Pye - when it comes to colour television - is very important. For continuing good sales of colour television is one of the main reasons for the group's record sales and profits in the first six months of this year. The chairman, Lord Thorneycroft forecasts continued high sales: "I think the actual rush is over but with the Royal wedding coming along in November and the World Cup series next year there is no knowing where it is going to end". The sales of the group rose 29% to £84 million

1973 10 19
Laser-Scan Laboratories Ltd, a science-based Cambridge firm set up four years ago, made history when they became the first tenants of the new Cambridge Science Park this week. The Trinity College scheme is being developed on land off Milton road. The Senior Bursar, Dr John Bradfield said they believed it was the first science park in England. "We are 99 per cent certain on signing a contract with a second tenant and we have two more in advanced stages of negotiation", he said. "The idea was

first mooted four years ago by the Mott committee and I think we have done very well to get this far in four years". He said the college were looking for a commercial return on their venture, but not necessarily in the usual financial expectations of recovering costs in a given number of years 73 10 19

1973 11 12
Sinclair send out over 100,000 calculators a month, p8

1973 11 25
Cambridge Medical Ltd moves Rustat road

1974
Warehouses developing due geographical location, price of land lower than nearer London or Midlands [12.3]

1974 01 03
Something of the wartime spirit has crept into Mid-Anglian managements who are faced with the three-day electric week and oil shortages. The Pye Group employ a large percentage of women, so they don't want to ask them to work Saturdays, as the power rota demands, because of family commitments. So they will be using generators to give basic power on the other days, and will do as much as possible on those days that does not need power tools. They'll also cut down the lunch break

1974 01 07
Pye allowed full week during electricity cuts, p1

1974 03 08
The announcement of a return to the five-day week was greeted with relief by mid-Anglia's industrialists. Pye of Cambridge said that all their factories would be back to normal working on Monday. The secretary of Cambridge Trades Council said that for workers the main gain was a return to normality. "In this area we were not hit very hard by the three-day week, but it is a good thing it is over"

1974 03 14
Pye record £18.5M profit – 74 03 14

1974 08 17
Pye profits drop by 50% due consumer credit restrictions – 74 08 17

1974 10 07
About 7,000 men and women in the Cambridge area work for the Pye Group of Companies. More than 1,000 employees travel daily to work by Pye bus. The first of the 40 buses in daily use sets out from Wisbech in time to make the Cambridge works by 8am. Almost 30 per cent of the workers get to and from work by the buses. A special crèche has allowed the mothers of some 40 youngest children to return to work. Without a firm commitment to planned industrial expansion Cambridge could well fall behind more dynamic centres within commuting distance, and, in time, become a quaint but declining tourist backwater in the fens, say the company 74 10 07

1974 10 17
Cambridgeshire planning department may be asked to scrap the ban imposed 25 years ago on industrial development in Cambridge, & they may also be asked to allocate up to 100 acres of land in Cambridge for industrial use. At present less than 30 acres are earmarked for this. The Holford report which was published in 1949 recommended that no new industry employing more than five people should be allowed to develop in the city. In 1965 the planners raised the limit of employees to 12. Repeated requests by the city council for the ban to be removed were all refused 74 10 17

1975

Cambridge Instrument Company taken over by Metals research, Cambridge Scientific & Cambridge Medical Instruments merge into Cambridge Instrument Company

1975 06 23
H.J. Gray celebrate 120th anniversary - founded was England champion at Rackets for 3 years [14.1]

1975 06 25
Cambridge Science Park was officially opened by Sir Alan Hodgkin, President of the Royal Society and Fellow of Trinity College. The park came from an idea by Sir Neville Mott, who led a committee which first proposed the setting up of a Science Park in Cambridge to further scientific industrial development in the city. Trinity College has spent £650,000 to date on developing the centre. The site has four tenants so far c75 06 26

1975 07 16
St Ives based Sinclair Radionics Ltd, one of Europe's biggest manufacturers of packet calculators has introduced a new model. The Scientific Programmable Calculator is aimed at scientists, students, engineers and statisticians. Initially it will be available only by mail order

1975 08 21
The finance director of the Pye Group, Cambridge's largest employer, is a worried man. Not that the group is going to the wall or even likely to run into the red in the current year – but the fact is that the group's profits are going to be less than 1974. Already this year it has cut out 2,000 of its 21,000 UK jobs and is making expensive efforts to sell goods. The problem is that the recession in Britain and Western Europe shows no signs of ending 75 08 21

1976 01 26
Cambridge Computer Services taken over by Geest 76 01 26 [8.3]

1976 07 08
Pye sell off tv rental side – 76 07 08

1976 11 25
Sinclair: National Enterprise Board put in £650,000, ends three-year quest for new capital

1976 12 08
More than 1,000 jobs in the Cambridge area have been saved with the supply of £3 million of public money to the Cambridge Instrument Company, following a £1.85 million trading loss. The company has suffered serious financial troubles since it was set up after Metals Research Ltd of Melbourn took over Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd 15 months ago. The company is one of the leading British manufacturers of scientific instruments with opposition coming from Japan, the USA and West Germany. It is to retain this technology in Britain that the Government has put up the new money 76 12 08

1976 12 14
For the first time in two years Pye is going to see its television and radio division make money, but final details of the deal in which Philips Industries will take it over have still to be settled. Jobs are reasonably safe despite the selling off of the radio, television and audio side of its activities: Philips will take on those still working at factories at Lowestoft and King's Lynn. It is prepared to pay hard cash for companies whose losses were running at about £2 million last year because of the commercial benefits of expansion. Both have been busy on research and development work on radio, televisions and hi-fi equipment. Elimination of half the work brings an immediate saving. The Pye group will in future concentrate its efforts on scientific and technical "professional" equipment 76 12 14

1977 01 10

Sinclair unveil world's smallest tv

1977 04 07
Pye top-out building, p9

1977 08 19
Pye profits rocket, p10

1978 03 29
A Cambridge businessman, Lloyd Stokes, has submitted plans to build a 21-acre industrial estate just north of the old railway on the A10. It is opposite the Trinity Hall Farm science park which he developed from farmland worth about £130 an acre and has recently sold for £200,000. Mr Stokes is still involved in a four-year planning wrangle over what the District Council considers an illegal road at the rear of the Milton Industrial Estate.

1978 04 07
Sinclair loses £1.3M, axe 56 jobs due US dollar fall value

1978 04 08
The Cambridge Instrument Company is being taken over by the Government following a trading year in which it lost £2.8 million. That's the effect of the National Enterprise Board's decision to increase its shares to 80 per cent. The intention is to let the company go independent again in three years' time if it makes enough sales generating cash flow and profits by then. The chairman of the Company said: "This is the best thing for us in the short and medium term. Now we can go forward with confidence and have a lot more scope and room in which to manoeuvre" 78 04 08

1978 05 15
Pye open new Telecom works one week after flood

1978 05 25
Lloyd Stokes plans 21a industrial estate opposite Trinity Hall Farm Science Park; had laid roads before permission which rejected 1972; now supported by City [3.9]

1978 08 09
A major aircraft building job is being given to Marshall's of Cambridge by the Ministry of Defence. It involves the stretching of the fuselages of 29 Hercules aircraft to allow it to carry extra cargo. The conversion will be fitted into the normal overhaul and serving work which the firm carries on. Sir Arthur Marshall said: "At the moment we are on various major contracts for the Hercules – replacement of wing centre sections and outer wings – as well as work on military and civil aircraft from all over the world". 78 08 09

1978 09 14
At least 4 important science-based manufacturing firms started by Trinity men - Cambridge Scientific Instruments & Metals Research (now combined as Cambridge Instrument Company), Aero Research (CIBA-Geigy) & Torvac [3.10]

1979
Acorn computers launched by Chris Curry

1979 01 02
Eldon Griffiths, the Conservative MP, has asked for East Anglia, and particularly Haverhill and Cambridge to be considered an area for building new 'silicon-chip' factories. It has a clean uncluttered environment with abundant 'greenfield' sites together with easy access via the modern ports of Ipswich and Felixstowe. There is a population with a high proportion of teenagers, especially in the 'overspill' towns, capable of being trained in the new techniques of the 'micro-chip' revolution.

He cites an absence of obsolete buildings and embittered industrial relations that inhibit the introduction of modern machinery and a sturdy foundation for electronic-type development arising from companies such as Pye and world-famous university science departments.

1979 01 31
Instrument Company announce £3M loss, more NEB money [11.1]

1979 02 15
Two hundred workers at Pye Engineering Services will lose their jobs when the firm closes this summer. The company designs and manufactures press, tools, jigs, fixtures and special purpose machines and closure is blamed on the lack of demand due to changes in technology and product types. It started in 1946 as a small engineering shop with a dozen workers and at its peak employed 350 people. But large losses have been made annually and two years ago 130 workers were put on a three-day week because of a collapse in sales.

1979 05 10
Sinclair lost £2M, sack 160

1979 05 12
It is costing the Pye Group £1.3 million to close two factories and meet redundancy payments for those thrown out of work. They are Pye Engineering Services in Cambridge, which closes next month with the loss of 200 jobs, and Pye Ether of Stevenage. It is also closing Pye TMC's factory at Livingstone, Scotland. The profits of Pye Telecom – the largest single earner – were hit by competition from major international suppliers but the Business Communications side had a good order book and Pye Unicam orders were 20 per cent up. Sales of the Labgear television Teletext adaptor were initially disappointing but are showing a marked improvement

1979 05 18
Niggling away in the minds of 1,500 people who work at the Cambridge Instrument Company and at Sinclair Radionics at St Ives is the question: "Will we still be here next week?" The two companies are part of the National Enterprise Board without whose contributions of public money both would certainly have gone to the wall in the last three years. Now Mrs Thatcher's new man for industry, Sir Keith Joseph is planning to restrict the NEB's activities. Sinclair's history has been one of total innovation. It was the first in the field with a pocket-sized electronic calculator, it made an all-new digital watch – plagued with technical problems - and the world's smallest television with a two-inch screen. But it made a £2 million loss last year. Both may disappear for good if the new Government pulls the financial rug out now.

1979 05 26
Pye Engineering Services sold to Amin 79 05 26

1979 06 16
Sinclair sack 160

1979 07 06
Margaret Thatcher, Britain's scientist Prime Minister, came to Cambridge to see scientific industry at work and was promptly taken over by children from Bar Hill Primary School who had been given a morning off to see her. She talked to them for ten minutes then got on with the business of the day, meeting Mike Harrison, managing director of H.H. Electronics. The company employs more than 300 people designing and selling audio electronic sound equipment. Later Mrs Thatcher visited Laser-Scan, another company using chip technology

1979 07 07
Cambridge is a scientific and industrial gold mine where the brains and talents of those in the university can be harnessed and developed by industry so that new products can be made and new

jobs created, said Margaret Thatcher. At Laser-Scan she saw techniques developed to digitise maps using laser beams and computers. She was delighted to be told that one system they used was called 'Maggie' for short. "So it should be if it's a scientific system", she said. But when told it was a dump file she quipped "Oh no, you can't do that to me – you'd better find another name for it"

1979 07 31
In June 1968 George Brown M.P. arrived to open the new building for Cambridge Consultants Ltd at Bar Hill. He didn't find anyone to receive him because CCL don't believe in receptionists. Instead he found a telephone which said 'Please ring 47 and ask for the person you wish to speak to'. He did so and created a mild panic among the company dignitaries whose job it was to receive him. But when Prince Charles arrives to open the latest building on the Science Park he will find receptionists in the regulation plate glass front office, surrounded by rubber plants and other foliage.

1979 08 01
Instrument Company announce 150 jobs go [11.1]

1979 08 02
Prince Charles opens Cambridge Consultants building [02.4.20]

1979 08 10
Clive Sinclair, the 38-year-old former electronics 'whizz-kid' who founded Sinclair Radionics when he was 21 has set up a new company, Sinclair Research. He hopes to develop a television with an extra-large flat screen the size of a normal home cine screen which would hang on the wall like a picture. He has previously developed miniature radio sets, pocket-sized electronic calculators and a mini-television which he manufactured at a factory at St Ives.

1979 09 05
Philips Group complete Pye take-over; had 60.7% from 1967 when Pye in financial trouble but offered rest British investors; but with increasing competition from Japan & USA arrangement looked shaky. Even sale to Philips 2 years ago of consumer division - tv, radio electrical did little to help & take over the only answer; 4 years ago put some top financial men into Pye to shake-up management; likely to continue Pye name [18]

1979 10 01
Cambridge Consultants on the Science Park have spent nine years developing ink jet printing, opening up new frontiers. They have carried out trials on surfaces ranging from the petals of an orchid to the roughest grade of sandpaper and have developed systems able to produce 50,000 lines of text a minute on fast-moving surfaces up to two metres wide. Their work is attracting world-wide interest and has already been put to commercial use.

1979 10 30
The name of Pye has been around since 1896. To most people it conjures up a picture of radios, televisions, record players and even records. But none of the UK companies in the Pye of Cambridge group now makes any of these and since October 1st this year, legally speaking, Pye Holdings, the parent group, ceased to exist as a public company. About 12 years ago Philips made a successful bid for the Pye group and it has now become a fully-owned subsidiary. This will improve the future prospects of the companies and the long-term opportunities for employment within them, management claim.

1979 10 12
Instrument Company - NEB sell off majority interest to new company, Gladecrown [11.1]

1980

1980 01 29

The ZX80 personal computer was launched by Sinclair research of Cambridge. It can be used in the office, the factory and the home. The creator, Mr Clive Sinclair, says any child of 10 with normal arithmetical ability could use it. The new machine is smaller than anything of comparable performance and also four times as cheap. In kit form it costs £77.95 and a completely-built version will be available in March at £99.95. It can be plugged into an ordinary television set or standard computers. The 'software' can be operated through a standard tape cassette and it comes with a 130-page, step-by-step manual. 80 01 29

1980 04 19
Cambridge Electronic Industries - smaller Pye companies set up management company after Philips take over

1980 05 19
Structure Plan encourages growth of small new enterprises whose initial development dependent on use of locally-based skills & expertise [3.11]

1980 07 08
Sinclair Research, the company founded by Mr Clive Sinclair who pioneered the world's first pocket calculators and micro-televisions wants to buy the church of St Andrew the Great and turn it into a laboratory. They are currently researching computers and electrically-powered vehicles and are looking for premises in central Cambridge. But the church say he is unlikely to get permission because schemes for offices, shops, a language school and a mosque had already been rejected. 80 07 08g

1980 08 01
Cambridge Civic Society fears a scheme to convert St Andrew the Great Church into an electronics laboratory could open up the site for office building in the future. They believe it would be more logical for Sinclair Research to move to the city Science Park. The church has no access, is in a completely congested area and it would be an enormous job to convert. But the planning watchdogs are away on holiday and applications for some of our major planning disasters have gone through in August, they say. 80 08 01

1980 10 03
Cambridge Consultants are breaking new frontiers with technology which can print words in 22-carat gold on egg shells or in edible ink on biscuits. They are pioneering a process known as ink jet printing and have just opened a purpose-built laboratory to develop specialist inks. Commercial applications include textile printing, letters and labelling and a line printer can produce an incredible 10 miles of text an hour. 80 10 03b

1980 12 10
Anyone who can afford it can now 'pick the brains' of a central computer via Prestel, a specially adapted tv set connected to the telephone. A remote control keypad enables it to dial up the local computer and access material stored in its memory which travels down the ordinary telephone line. In the future one might use on-screen displays to teach children, transmit newspaper-type material with a domestic print-out facility, exchange letters and conversations by text displays and vote in general and local elections. 80 12 10a

1981 01 26
Microelectronics have caused some major shake-ups in the way we live and work; Cambridge's electronics wizard, Clive Sinclair brought us the first pocket calculator and pocket television and now launches Britain's first complete personal computer, the ZX-80. It plugs into the aerial socket of your television and is tuned in like a video-game. But then you have to type in a program from the 128-page instruction manual. The computer is not really all that bright and must be given a clear list of instructions before it can do even the simplest sums. 81 01 26a & b

1981 02 18
Cambridge electronics wizard, Clive Sinclair, has launched the world's first flat-screen television. Working with Timex he hopes to produce a million tubes in 1982. The first will be a 6 x 4 x 1-inch pocket television costing £50 able to pick up transmissions anywhere. It may eventually lead to a large screen which can be hung on a wall 81 02 18c

1981 04 02
Cambridge Medical becomes part of Picker International 1981 [11.1]

1981 04 01
Pye Business Communications is marketing a revolutionary office intercom system, the M100S, which, literally, speaks for itself. A voice unit will verbally tell a caller if a particular extension is in a meeting or on holiday. It can also take a video screen which will flash up information such as a user transferring to another extension or an absence or holiday list. All the information is put into a microcomputer exchange by the keys or dials of the intercom and telephones. 81 04 01a

1981 04 20
Pye TVT win Queens Award to Industry for Export achievement – 81 04 20

1981 05 27
Sinclair start cut-price war with Acorn over microcomputers for secondary schools 81 05 29

1981 06 30
Cambridge Electronic Industries sold off by Philips (prospers, Philips sell last of stake 1986) [7.9]

1981 08 16
"Can Acorn become an oak tree overnight" - Guardian 1981
Netherhall School has won a £35,000 computer development grant for its pioneering use of new technology in education. The funding is coming from the Department of Industry, Cambridge colleges and Acorn Computers who will supply 16 of their new BBC Microcomputers. They will now develop computer programmes to teach science, geography, economics and history in schools around the country. 81 10 09b

1981 10 23
Sinclair invades Japan - 81 10 23

1981 11
Anglia Business Computers set up [7.2]

1982 01 29
Clive Sinclair, managing director of Sinclair Research Ltd of Cambridge has been chosen as Personality of the Year in a new series of awards for achievements in technical innovation. It follows the success of his ZX 81 personal computer of which some 40,000 are now being sold every month in this country. Production of the model, which has been a major force in bringing computers into everyday use, is now greater than any other computer in the world 82 01 29

1982 02 13
Sinclair set up deal with Timex – 82 02 13

1982 04 02
'Uncle Clive' Sinclair is close to becoming part of the legend of the microchip. He brought to the word innovative calculators, digital watches and pocket-sized televisions. Then in 1976 he formed Sinclair Research to conceive new projects in the consumer electronics field, including an electric car. He started with a little computer then produced a ZX81 version priced at just under £70. Now he has moved into the flat-screen television tube and mini-tv set. 82 04 02c

1982 04 02
Acorn computers has hardly had time to catch its breath since it won an agreement with the BBC to supply microcomputers suitable for use alongside a television series. But the broadcasts to schools began with only 200 of the 500 schools which wanted to take part having received their computers and programmes for the general public were postponed. Now 6,000 have been despatched with an order for 15,000 from Western Australia. 82 04 02d

1982 04 06
Pye TVT of Cambridge may lose a £100,000 order for television transmitters from Argentina because of the Falkland Islands crisis but Pye Telecom are still working on a £4,000 order for a communications system for the Falklands Islands. Stansted Airport's three giant Belfast military planes may be drafted into military use to ferry bulk loads nearer the scene of the action. Although they can land on medium-sized runways like Cambridge it could not land on the airstrip at Port Stanley. 82 04 06a

1982 04 24
Cambridge electronics wizard Clive Sinclair shook the computer world by announcing a new powerful machine at a fraction of the price of its rivals. The Sinclair ZX Spectrum costs £125 with a 16k memory, capable of high-resolution colour graphics. A mini floppy disc-drive memory device will shortly be available at the staggeringly low price of £50. 82 04 24

1982 04 30
Marshall's engineers have provided the Falkland Islands task force with a vital new component in their armoury – a transport aircraft that can be refuelled in mid-air. They have carried out conversion work on a prototype Hercules 130, the RAF's workhorse, in record time. The giant transporter had its first test-flight from Cambridge this week when the system worked without problems. The Marshalls men are jubilant that they got it right first time and so quickly. 82 04 30a

1982 05 07
A small sprig of yew to help ward away evil spirits was placed in the concrete during the ceremonial topping out of a futuristic new building at Cambridge Science Park. It will become Napp Laboratories central research and medical centre bringing facilities from four other bases. Around 200 people will work at the new complex which stands in a landscaped site with the main access provided by way of a plaza and a bridge across a canal. 82 05 07

1982 07 19
Work is continuing on the Clifton industrial estate, a joint development between the City Council and Dencora Securities on the site of the former of cattle market. There will be 31 units providing 225 jobs in light industry and warehousing with the first opening shortly. Much emphasis is being placed on a good quality of construction and landscaping to ensure a good working environment. 82 07 19

1982 08 05
New firms have been springing up in rural Cambridgeshire at an astonishing rate. Napp Laboratories searched for two years before bringing all their British-based operations under one roof in a futuristic £8 million building on Cambridge Science Park. Harcostar picked Huntingdon to make industrial plastics as it was a London overspill centre with housing. In East Cambridgeshire more than 40 per cent of all manufacturing firms are new, employing just over 20 per cent of manufacturing workers. But now industrialists are taking a gloomy view of the area's prospects. 82 08 05a &

1982 08 25
The final phase of the Coral Park development in Coldham's Lane is now complete. Work began in December 1973 with the demolition of a 160-ft high chimney which had been part of the Cambridge landscape for more than a century. The first warehouse was let to E. Laxton, a national cash and carry

operation, and other tenants include W.H. Smith (Wholesale), Pye Telecommunications and Linfood. 82 08 25

1982 09 15
Pye Telecom shed 170 jobs 82 09 15

1982 10 02
Electronics wizard Clive Sinclair unveiled his new Cambridge headquarters. The building is based on a soft-drinks works with a futuristic new wing added. Sunlight coming through the glass roof of the new wing and water from a spring under the original building will be used to control air temperatures. Telephone and security systems will be heavily computerised. The reception area includes the largest polished bronze sculpture in the work by Helaine Blumenfeld who lives in Grantchester. 82 10 02

1982 11 03
Cambridge Instruments returns profit 1982 [11.1]

1982 11 16
Torch Computers was formed last year and has already produced a powerful business computer, opened a factory in Wales to manufacture it, opened offices in America and Canada and seen production climb above 250 a month. Now it's new research and development centre at Abberley House, Great Shelford has been officially opened by the Technology Minister, Kenneth Baker. 82 11 16a

1982 11 30
Cambridge innovator Clive Sinclair is using well water to help heat his new headquarters building in Willis Road. Instead of cold tap water, the boiler uses water from a deep borehole which has already been pre-warmed, free of charge, with the heat from the centre of the earth. It is the first installation of its type in the country. Looking after the system is a Sinclair ZX81 computer. 82 11 30

1982 12 09
Accommodation for computer-based companies in Cambridge is at a premium. Several firms are run from private houses with others based around King's Parade and Jesus Lane, where buildings are available and rents favourable. Now a technology square is planned for land at the rear of Shire Hall similar to Trinity College's Science Park but at smaller rents. There might be dual-purpose buildings for start-up companies providing both a home and an office to work in. 82 12 09

1982 12 10
Scientists at the University Microcircuit Engineering Laboratory, set-up among the high-tech industries on the Science Park, are building intricate electronic components which are so small that even microscopes are hard-pushed to reveal their structure – 200 of them could be placed along a human hair. Such shrinking chips reduce power consumption, increase performance and dramatically cut costs. They have already found commercial use in industry. 82 12 10

1982 12 30
Cambridge Interactive Systems founded five years ago; sold American company for £ millions [7.8]

1983 01 13
Cambridge was the first place to provide a science park. Now the County Council propose to establish a technology village on the Shire Hall redevelopment site. The novel scheme would provide both houses and workshops in an attempt to create a 21st-century high technology community. It would have offices, shops, a pub and recreational facilities. Secretaries and photocopiers could be shared. 83 01 13

1983 03 24

Clive Sinclair went to London in January to learn he was worth £129 million on the Stock Exchange. Now the head of Sinclair Research told a Guardian 'Young Businessman of the Year' award that he has created 2,000 new jobs. The firm was founded in 1979 and launched the world's first under £100 personal computer in 1980, followed by improved models including the colour ZX Spectrum. 83 03 24 p20

1983 04 22
Pye Telecom win £10M contract 83 04 22

1983 05 03
Torch Computers to become most powerfully backed computer company, take-over by GEC but deal crashed; bought by Acorn 1984 [10.4]

1983 05 05
Kent Industrial Measurements is to end its century-old Cambridge link with the closure of its works in Rosemary Lane. The firm, which makes gas monitoring equipment, is transferring production as part of a restructuring plan. Most of the 82 staff are being offered jobs at other Kent sites at Eaton Socon and Stonehouse in Gloucestershire. Originally it was part of Cambridge Instruments but have been totally separate for many years 83 05 05 p6

1983 05 11
Sinclair affected by Timex strike – 83 05 11

1983 05 25
Sinclair to set up Metalab, £2m research centre – 83 05 25

1983 06
Clive Sinclair knighted – 83 06

1983 06 18
Sinclair invests £12.9m in electric car – 83 06 18

1983 06 20
Cambridge computer wizard Clive Sinclair may buy the factory of the failed Northern Ireland sports car company De Lorean to manufacture his electric car. His Sinclair Vehicle Project is developing what is hoped to be the first mass-produced electric vehicle for some years. Intended for city travellers it is due for release in 1985. The technology was developed by the Norfolk based Lotus Company, which Sir Clive has also shown an interest in buying 86 06 20 p3

1983 07 02
Sinclair Research has bought the 18th-century Milton Hall as its centre for research into revolutionary and high-risk ideas called Metalab. Milton Hall which was built in 1772 was bought by Eastern Electricity in 1950 as a regional office and research centre. Two large modern wings were added. The cost of the purchase is around £500,000. 83 07 02 p5, 83 07 07 p15

1983 08 31
The Cambridge computer industry has suffered its first casualty. Grundy Business Systems, based on the Science Park, launched its NewBrain microcomputer in May last year, based on a design by Sir Clive Sinclair. It became one of the best-selling in the UK but an unexpected decline in sales and a failure to meet deadlines led to cash difficulties. 83 08 31 p1

1983 09 21
Sinclair launches flat-screen tv – 83 09 21

1983 10 25

Jupiter Cantab small computer company into liquidation, second in three months, set up by ex-Sinclair designer [9.3]

1983 11 18
Sinclair seeks BBC contract – 83 11 15

1984 01 13
Sinclair launches QL – 84 01 13

1984 02 06
Pye TVT in battle for long-term commercial survival 84 02 06

1984 02 20
Toltec liquidation, fourth city computer business in six months - previously Grundy, Jupiter & HH Electronics Bar Hill [10.5]

1984 02 24
Sinclair hit by US price war & production delays - 84 02 24, 84 03 02

1984 04 02
The pharmaceutical industry is not a large employer with just 75,000 people in the UK. In mid 1983 Napp employed 225 which will have risen to 265 by the end of 1984. It opened its Cambridge office in June 1980 when 70 employees relocated from its locations in Aberdeen, Watford and West Drayton and moved into the Science Park last June. The modern air conditioned environment is unique; the atmosphere is hard working but informal with widespread use of Christian names 84 04 02

1984 05 15
A telephone in one's car must represent one-upmanship. Pye Telecom has just introduced its new radiophone. Electricians are using them, so are plumbers. Not only is it a boon, it is also the most infuriating device ever invented by man. It costs around £2,350 to buy and a further £100 to have it fitted. Then there is a maintenance contract and British Telecom fees of £105 a quarter. For this it is theoretically possible to send and receive ordinary telephone calls to and from your car. In practice they are patchy in the Cambridge area 84 05 15 p16

1984 07 13
Sinclair China deal – 84 07 13

1984 08 01
Acorn Computers has been presented with the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement for the innovating design of the BBC Microcomputer system. It was presented to Chris Curry, joint managing director at their offices in Fulbourn Road. He praised the company's research team who have produced a computer of such elegance of design that three years after its introduction it still knocks spots off the competition. The ceremony comes three weeks after Acorn won a four-year renewal of its important BBC contract 84 08 01 p3

1984 10 03
Darwin Instruments, the Cambridge educational supply company which two years ago won a £37 million Mexican export order, has opened its new headquarters. It has completely refurbished the Old Paper Mills on the corner of Newmarket Road and Ditton Walk which two years ago was completely derelict 84 10 03

1984 10 28
Norman Portland Cement works closes, in production since 1904, reserves of Marl almost worked out, dust was problem; continues to grind cement on site but shuts completely 1987 [15.3]

1984 10 31
Cambridge Business Park to open opposite Science Park with no restriction on manufacturing [13.6]

1984 12 14
Foreign competition is forcing Gray's to stop volume production of wooden squash racquets early next year due to the difference between the cost of labour and overheads in Cambridge and Taiwan. But production of a limited range of top-quality specialist racquets will continue as will its cricket bat and ball factories in Sussex and Kent. The129-year-old company, which has its headquarters at the Playfair Works in Benson Street and a sports shop in Sidney Street, employs around 110 people locally 84 12 14

1984 12 28
St John's College is to go ahead with plans to develop its 22-acre science park site in North Cambridge, even though part of it has been rejected by planners. The college has owned the land since 1530 but it has been semi-derelict since 1945. The site, sometimes known as 'the teardrop' lies between the new and old A10 roads at Milton and has been split by the building of the Northern by-pass with its raised interception. The Government says part lies in the Green Belt and should remain undeveloped. 84 12 28

1985 01 10
Sir Clive Sinclair's new electric car is quite unlike anything else on the road. It is shaped like a plastic torpedo and equipped with handlebars beneath the driver's knee and a set of large bicycle pedals. Top speed is around 15mph on the level and the range on a single battery is around 20 miles. It can be recharged in eight hours and has a space for a reserve battery. The price is right: at just under £400 on the road it represents another highly-successful gamble on the part of the Cambridge-based millionaire 85 01 10a & b & c

1985 01 21
Skilled technicians, computer programmers and systems analysts are now at a premium in Cambridge and are being bought and sold like footballers between firms who pay transfer fees to get the staff they want. The Itec centre in Hooper Street is making a small dent in the problem by taking youngsters with no formal qualifications and training them on technical subjects. Of 28 taken on so far, all but one have got good jobs. 85 01 21a

1985 01 23
Pye has been in consumer electrical goods since 1922 when W.G. Pye and Co began selling wireless kits. Now from its headquarters in St Andrew's Road, Chesterton it sells a wide range of televisions and radios under the Pye brand name though they are not made in Cambridge and have Philips internals. People have a very strong loyalty to the name 'Pye', so now they are moving back into areas which have been abandoned to the Japanese. Video cassette recorders have been selling since July and hi-fi music-centres will be launched this year. 85 01 23a

1985 01 23
Acorn route into future – 85 01 23

1985 02 11
Clive Segal rescued Cambridge Instrument Company, joined 1979 when £3 million loss and now business increasing

1985 02 11
Cambridge Innovation Centre, designed to provide facilities and support services essential to small companies during their initial development, was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh at the Science Park. For three companies, Cambridge Robotics, Torus Systems and Prelude Technology Investments it represents expansion from previous Science Park premises. Altek Automation and Data Analysis

and Research have come from outside Cambridge while Synoptics, which is involved in image processing, has been established by two Cambridge University academics. 86 02 11a # c.27.1

1985 02 21
Acorn's future following the Olivetti rescue – 85 02 21

1985 03 01
Sir Clive Sinclair is taking a £3 million high-tech centre as part of a major expansion of his Cambridge-based research company. The present headquarters at Willis Road is bursting at the seams so he is moving to the Camtec Centre off Rustat Road. Other high-tech companies in the area include Cambridge Electronic Industries, Acornsoft and Logica. Sinclair this week launched a big advertising campaign for its £100 pocket TV and hopes to sell 200,000 units of their QL computers in 1985. 85 03 01a

1985 03 11
King's Court, four research and development blocks on the site of Solus Electronics in Kirkwood Road, is a further step in the creation of a silicon belt near Trinity College's Science Park. Others are St John's Innovation Centre and a 20-acre Cambridge Business Park. Plans which have failed to gain permission are for a 60-acre Cambridge Technology Centre off King's Hedges Road and St John's 'teardrop' site on Milton Road. There is a tremendous demand for high-tech property with half the new development under offer before it has been advertised. 85 03 11d

1985 03 26
Clive Sinclair offered four-acre site for 'superchip' plant – 85 03 26

1985 03 29
Sinclair production C5 suspended – 85 03 29a

1985 04 08
Ups and downs of Clive Sinclair – 85 04 08a

1985 04 25
Massive development Cowley Road - D & H site [4.2]

1985 05 26
Sinclair in tight financial difficulties – 85 05 26

1985 05 28
Cambridge computer company Sinclair Research needs to raise up to £15 million and is also looking for a new chief executive officer. – 85 05 28

1985 05 29
Castle Park, the £10 million high-tech development on County Council land next to Shire Hall has been inaugurated. It offers 'thinking space' to scientists and academics involved in research and development of high-technology ideas. The project will be fully self-contained with its own conference facilities, restaurant, gymnasium, squash courts and overnight accommodation as well as centrally available office equipment and secretarial support. A key attribute is its location in the heart of the city close to many of the University's colleges. 85 05 29b

1985 06 26
For 50 years the name of F.H. Fry has been associated with scales and scale-making in Cambridge. It was started by Frederic Fry in East Road in 1935 and moved to Perowne Street in 1962. Now they have branched out to include cash registers, gravity-feed slicers and sausage fillers. Modern scales are so clever they can not only weigh and automatically calculate the price but they also check themselves

to see they are in working order. Yet despite all this progress a brass weight is used to check they are accurate. 85 06 26b

1985 09 20
Sinclair Research is selling its award-winning headquarters at Willis Road, Cambridge. The class and stainless-steel conversion of a Victorian bottling plant has been in use since 1982. Now the company's activities are to be concentrated at Milton Hall where their advanced research centre, Metalab is already operating. It is part of a restructuring programme to slim the company in the face of an estimated £15 million debt. 85 09 20

1985 09 26
Spillers' new flour packing factory in Station Road is a model of modern efficiency. Combined with the existing Homepride mill it will be capable of producing 20 million packets of flour annually, making it their main processing plant in Britain and enabling cost increases to be kept to a minimum. It is part of a major centralisation plan by Spillers Homepride which is moving its headquarters into Cambridge. 85 09 26 - CEN 13.12.88

1985 10 14
Sinclair call in Receiver for C5 – 85 10 14

1985 11 07
Dr Clive Sinclair is one of the few British industrialists to challenge the Japanese and American dominance in electronics. Although his C5 vehicle venture went into liquidation this week he is still afloat, still only 45 and has enormous resources. So it is a very good time for Rodney Dale, a literate man who knows Cambridge science well, to have produced his biography giving an invaluable glimpse of a significant period in Cambridge's electronic history. 85 11 07

1985 11 29
Pye TVT, the Cambridge television equipment company is to close its studio systems plant which employs 230 people – 85 11 29

1985 12 02
H.J. Gray stop volume production of wooden squash rackets in Cambridge by December have 30 staff compared to 150 year ago [14.2]

1985 12 12
Office rents soared 35% in year, shops and industrial rents also up ¢CEN 12.12.88

1985 12 13
Sinclair Research HQ Willis Rd bought by county council – 85 12 13

1986 01 03
Local firms such as Pye Unicam, Barnwell Engineering and Cambridge Instruments have shown that there are rich pickings in exporting to Eastern Bloc companies. Now two new companies have been established to assist exports. Anglia Instruments deals in Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia on behalf of several small firms including Techne at Duxford, while Anglo-Polish Exhibitions based at Histon provides a complete back-up service to firm who want to exhibit at major trade fairs in Poland. 86 01 03a

1986 02 11
Cambridge Innovation Centre, designed to provide facilities and support services essential to small companies during their initial development, was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh at the Science Park. For three companies, Cambridge Robotics, Torus Systems and Prelude Technology Investments it represents expansion from previous Science Park premises. Altek Automation and Data Analysis

and Research have come from outside Cambridge while Synoptics, which is involved in image processing, has been established by two Cambridge University academics. 86 02 11a

1986 02 12
Laser Scan move bigger premises on Science Park - 86 02 12

1986 02 17
Clifton Industrial Estate started in 1982 with the City Council leasing the old cattle market site to Dencora Securities Ltd who built the industrial units. Now they are constructing a modern hi-tech research and office complex on the Cherry Hinton Road frontage with considerable emphasis on landscaping to provide an attractive working environment. From specialist electronics to every day motor parts, car valeting services to furniture upholstery it has a wide range of industries providing several hundred jobs for a large variety of skills. 86 02 17a & b

1986 04 08
"Sinclair has become a legend as one of most prestigious inventors since Leonardo. 1st pocket calculator, one of first digital watches, first sub-£100 home computer & first pocket tv set ... thanks Spectrum his name as familiar to generation of under-18s as Superman; few products emerged without serious teething troubles & major delays 2 separate companies: Sinclair research makes computers & flat screen tv; he sold some shares to group institutions two years ago Sinclair Vehicles founded on back of that money to make C5 but problems at each company simultaneously - Vehicles lack sales Research hit by lack sales, dealers left with surplus & not reordering & home computer market saturated mini-tv not in High St but selling in USA – 86 04 08a
Sinclair sell marketing rights of computers to Amstrad – 85 04 08

1986 04 15
Sinclair to sell Milton Hall – 85 04 15

1986 04 24
Employment at Cambridge's booming Science Park has gone up 30 per cent in a year and now stands at around 1,940 jobs. And this does not take account of the growing army of temporary and ancillary staff who keep the park cleaned, fed, serviced and patrolled. Four companies have left over the past year, but 17 new ones arrived. The biggest growth has been shown by Cambridge Life Sciences where staffing has risen from 28 to 50, LKB Biochrom, Napp Laboratories and Torus Systems. Further growth will come by GEC's Marconi Underwater Applied Research Laboratory and the London International Group which is building a research laboratory. 86 04 24a

1986 05 26
Sinclair launches Anamartic - superchip – 86 05 26

1986 06 17
Grays of Cambridge, the 130-years-old sports firm, has reached the end of an era with the closure of its Benson Street headquarters. The only remaining presence locally is a small racquet-making factory at Coton on the site of their former sawmill. The last 18 months have seen the workforce dwindle from 150 to just six. The main reasons for decline have been increased competition from Taiwan and a change away from wooden frames towards graphite and metal racquets and. Now they produce them for the small market of real tennis and rackets players 86 06 17a (others Sussex & Kent) [14.3]

1986 07 01
Chris Curry resigns from Acorn starts General Information Systems based at Croxton – 86 07 01c

1986 07 07
Torch Computers of Gt Shelford has developed a revolutionary Triple X computer using the Unix-based computing system with a revolutionary 'Opentop' facility that allows more than one page to be seen at a time. Around the edges of the screen are a number of symbols called 'icons'. Using a control

known as a 'mouse' the user can direct a floating arrow and by clicking the 'mouse' twice the accounts package comes up on the screen. By then double-clicking the calculator icon it appears on top of the accounts. This is known as 'multi-tasking'. It means that for the first time one doesn't need programming knowledge to take advantage of the Unix system's benefits 86 07 07a

1986 07 21
St John's innovation centre opposite Science Park to stimulate ideas [4.5]

1986 07 21
"Much of area economic success due low employment in traditional manufacturing industry" [4.6]

1986 08 02
Developers Camtech announced plans for a massive new science-cum-shops development for the giant 55-acre Arbury Camp Farm. It comprises a mixture of high-tech research and development buildings and two retail units either side of a five-acre lake. One would be a food superstore and the other sell D-I-Y and gardening products. There would also be a park-and-ride site with room for 600 cars. But an Inquiry into another scheme for the same area was told that it would have a detrimental impact on local stores and shops. 86 08 02 & 2a

1986 09 24
Pye Ltd move to Croydon - departure of original radio works from which other Pye group companies have grown 86 09 24

1986 10 13
Sinclair starts new company Moduliser - portable micro-computers – 86 10 13

1986 11 17
At Logica's smart Cambridge offices a strange clipped voice rises above the human chatter. By the end of the decade it may well become commonplace. For the firm is devising a computer which can talk to train travellers on the telephone. They are also working on a computer which will help Shell devise formulae for lubricating oils. The company, which has 2,400 staff working in 3 countries, opened its Cambridge offices two years ago but has difficulty recruiting staff because of a national shortage of trained workers. 86 11 17

1987
Government ends distinction office use & research & development, city has used it to restrict firms wanting come Cambridge because of status etc [NS2.15]

1987
MacKay celebrates 75 years [NS.1.3]

1987 01 24
The Blue Circle Cement Works in Coldham's Lane is to shut in June with the loss of 22 jobs. The news comes less than three years after a decision to reduce the 70-acre site from a quarry to simply a grinding and distribution depot. Workers have been worried about their future ever since the 1983 decision to wind down the operation with the loss of 91 jobs. The manager said it hadn't come as a total surprise and people had resigned themselves to it. It means that a prime development site could soon be on the market. 87 01 24

1987 05 12
The ink jet printer can be traced back to 1971 when Graeme Minto was leader in a project at Cambridge Consultants. In 1978 he formed Domino whose first product, the Unijet was used in numbering lottery ticket books and in the food packaging industry. In 1982 they moved from Milton to large new premises at Bar Hill, joined forces with American Technologies Inc and gained the Queen's Award for Technological achievement in 1985. 87 05 12a

1987 06 04
Aim Technology high-tech firm shuts, 50 jobs go; 9 year growth to staff of 60 [7.4] 87 06 04

1987 06 08
An era in Cambridge business will end when Pye Telecom changes its name to Philips Telecom. Pye has been part of Philips since 1966. The former name has been on the retreat elsewhere. Pye TVT has been sold to the American company Varian and Pye Unicam uses the name Philips Analytical. The last reminder of the old firm, which began when W.G. Pye set up an instrument company in 1896 is the Pye TV and radio business which has now moved to Croydon. 87 06 08c

1987 06 09
A small Cambridge research and development company has beaten international giants to win a prestigious engineering award. W.A. Technology, based in French's Road has clinched the Finniston Award for designing and building the world's first commercial instrument for viewing the atomic structure on the surface of materials. The scanning tunnelling microscope emerged from research by two Nobel prizewinners in conjunction with scientists at Cambridge University. The company was founded in 1982 by Barry Ambrose and Dr Colin Wilson who met when they worked at the Cavendish Laboratory 87 06 09

1987 06 12
Clive Sinclair opens new factory at Waterbeach for engineering company Win-Born Products. – 87 06 12f

1987 06 12
Donald Mackay reviews firm's history – 87 06 12d

1987 07 03
Domino Printing Sciences acquires US firm – 87 07 03

1988 01 05
Pye Unicam, direct descendant of the original W.G. Pye instrument company founded in 1896 has now changed its name to Philips Scientific. It was formed from the merger of W.F. Pye and Unicam in 1947 and was the last of the Cambridge companies to keep the name Pye in its title. It has now been recognised as a group with four divisions including the once separate Philips Communications and Security in Cromwell Road. It specialises in making analytical instruments for laboratory use, much of which is sold to Eastern Europe and the Far East 88 01 05 history of company – 88 01 05a, 88 01 06 & a

1988 02 01
One of Cambridge's best-known landmarks was removed from the skyline as the chimney at the 70-acre Blue Circle cement works in Coldham's Lane went out in style. The surrounding roads were full of cars before a sudden and extremely loud bang rang out. In a few seconds the old chimney took a clean dive to the ground and was reduced to a pile of rubble. The Norman cement works had opened in 1908 and frequently modernised, finally closing last June. For the last three years it was used as a grinding and distribution plant 88 02 01a

1988 05 10
Lintech, Science Park collapses, auction ¢CEN 10.5.88,7.7.88

1988 95 28
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, tours Science Park – 88 05 28

1988 07 11

Castle Park, Cambridge's showpiece research and development village was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh. Developed by Sheraton and financed by Royal Life, it was designed to provide 'thinking space' for scientists and academics involved in high-technology developments. The initiative came from the County Council who were faced with the need to provide more office accommodation for its staff and developed land adjoining Shire Hall. The first phase, Castle House, Babbage House and Sheraton House was completed last year 88 07 11b, c. d

1988 10 06
Sir Clive Sinclair is moving out of Cambridge, though his business interests will bring him back to the city regularly. One of his companies, Anamartic is based at Milton Hall and another, Cambridge Computers has flats in Bridge Street, where he can stay. His home, The Stone House on Madingley Road, which dates back to 1896, has a white marble hall floor with a central oak staircases leading to eight bedrooms and three bathrooms, and a drawing room more than 30 feet long, is now for sale. 88 10 06

1988 10 20
IBM take more offices, had presence since 1984 ¢CEN 20.10.88

1988 10 20
Three Cambridge computer pioneers hope to revolutionise communications with a fibre-optic cable-TV service carrying eight or nine TV channels, some collected by satellite dishes. Eventually there would be 50 channels, an independent phone service, teleconferencing, a security alarm system, home shopping and remote banking. Cambridge Cable might link with Cambridge University's Project Granta to provide a data transmission service network from Girton to Addenbrooke's Hospital 88 10 20

1988 10 27
The chimney of the Blue Circle cement works on Coldham's Lane is the last remnant of more than 75 years of cement production in Cambridge. It stands alone on the 70-acre site which ceased production in 1984. It opened in 1908 as the Norman cement works and was frequently modernised with a new kiln installed in 1948. It finally closed in June after being a grinding and distribution plant for its last three years. Mystery still surrounds the future of the site which is still partly used as a waste dumping ground in a former quarry 88 01 27

1988 10 28
Cambridge AppleCentre was officially opened by Schnorbitz the dog and his well-known owner, comedian Bernie Winters in the presence of Directors from Apple Computers UK. It provides hardware and software on site at Clifton Court with a resident training consultant offering courses on the Apple Macintosh as well as a service department. The Apple is especially suitable for the busy executive with its friendly graphic interface and is suitable for updating company literature or starting a newsletter. They can be rented for special occasions such as exhibitions with a rental/conversion scheme for those who wish to evaluate it before buying. 88 10 28a

1988 10 29
Sir Clive Sinclair's Stone House, on Madingley Road was built in 1896. If he had chosen a fortress to protect him from prying eyes he could hardly have found a more solid building. The walls are more than a foot thick in solid stone and even the front door is a formidable structure of metal and class. It has a Middle Eastern annexe with a fabulous hand-painted ceiling and a collection of calculators and computers in a large glass cabinet. It is on the market for £750,000 88 10 29a

1988 12 19
Scientist of Nobel-prize-winning standard are to offer their services to industry as part of a new initiative to foster better links between the university and businesses in Cambridge. They will operate through consultancy companies which will provide a new source of university funds. Disciplines will

include veterinary science, mathematics and surface analysis under an initiative from the Wolfson Industrial Unit 88 12 19

1989 02 16
St Johns Innovation Centre to expand to business park ¢CEN 16.2.89

1989 02 21
CITS - county council computer buffs to close ¢CEN 21.2.89

1989 03 17
"Cambridge Phenomenon failing?" - many small firms reached plateau - lack of manufacturing why they stay small ¢CEN 17.3.89

1989 03 22
"Boom city grinding to a halt" - part problem due Government regulations allowing change of use from light industry to office development ¢CEN 22.3.89

1989 04 07
"East Anglian salaries need to rise 27% to keep pace with inflation" ¢CEN 7.4.89

1989 04 12
Acorn, the computer company which helped found the Cambridge Phenomenon, has bounded back into profitability after a worrying loss in 1987. They started getting into difficulties with the collapse of the home computer market in late 1984 and, apart from a recovery in 1986, have shown a loss ever since. But now the company, which employs around 230 people, is on course for expansion in its new role as a high-volume low-cost manufacturer of computers and work stations. 89 04 12

1989 05
Labgear Cablevision, the television communications equipment company makes good profits but its business in the area of satellite dishes, aerials and cable TV distribution systems does not fit into CEI's new strategic plans. It employs 125 people on the Cambridgeshire Business Park at Ely with 100 more at its main base at Abbey Walk, a site being considered for redevelopment for housing. It is one of three that Cambridge Electronic Industries plan to sell, leaving Cathodeon Crystals at Nuffield Road, Newmarket Microsystems, PED & Varelco at Newmarket in the local area. Cambridge Interconnection Technology, which used to be on the Cambridge Science Park has moved to Scotland 89 05

1989 05 25
Next Technology have launched Voyager, a super-computer which stores some 270 compact discs carrying micro-pictures of pages of books. It works like a jukebox and can 'play' more than one disc at a time. It is similar to the Domesday Project which allowed schoolchildren to retrieve information from a massive disk. If whole libraries were put on it then researchers could look-up and cross-reference items in seconds. Machines cost from £13-£21,000 and worldwide interest has been shown. 89 05 25b

1989 06 09
Electronics wizard and Cambridge tycoon Sir Clive Sinclair has been hailed as a visionary – and castigated as a mere marketer. In his career he has reflected the best in British enterprise but also suffered the embarrassment of failure. He has seen the field of electronics change out of all recognition in his lifetime. He formed his first company, Sinclair Radionics in 1962 and moved to Cambridge five years later where he produced an early digital watch, then began the calculator craze and made a miniature television. But it was when he made personal computers that his business took off. But he will still be remembered for the ill-fated C5. 89 06 09bb

1989 07 05

Department of Trade & Industry office in Cambridge to be upgraded to full regional status ¢CEN 5.7.89

1989 07 11
Cambridge Instrument Company taken over by Leitz ¢CEN 11.7.89

1989 08 16
Moves to encourage firms to leave city ¢CEN 16.8.89

1989 10 25
Cambridge is considered by many to be the computer capital of East Anglia. Now Evesham Micros has opened a new computer store in Glisson Road offering a wide range of micro-computer hardware, software and advice. They have computers from Amstrad, Olivetti, Epson and Atari with the latest IBM system arriving soon. Epson and Star printers together with modems from Mirrorcom, Amstrad and Pace are also stocked. Hard disks are put in operating condition so everything is ready by the time it gets to customers 89 10 25b & c # c.27.5

1989 11 01
Topexpress, once heralded as glowing example of Cambridge phenomenon axes 20 jobs, taken over two years ago ¢CEN 1.11.89

1989 12 02
Total back out of move to Cambridge - follows squabble over its use of Quayside offices, bringing 2,000 jobs ¢CEN 2.12.89

1989 12 09
Cambridge Science Park boomed in the early 1980s but now has trouble recruiting and keeping skilled staff. There are fewer school leavers and, coupled with the problems of high living costs and expensive housing, this has led to a fall in the potential working population. There should also be a slip-road direct to the A45 or a private bus service from the city centre to ease traffic congestion. A crèche for working mothers, banking facilities and a shop are also needed. 89 12 09

1990 01 08
Cambridge Electronic Industries was initially comprised of companies that did not fit into the Philips group. Today nearly half have been sold or have merged. Casualties include Pye RF Systems which sold equipment for the rapid drying of printed work, Cathodeon Crystals which merged with Newmarket Microsystems and Labgear Cablevision which has been sold to a Finnish company. But they have acquired seven American companies and exports represent half of CEI's total business – 90 01 08a

1990 01 19
Science park feature – 90 01 19a b

1990 01 24
The Ronald Rolph Court consists of 23 workshop units has helped several new companies make a positive start over the last seven years. Firms represent all aspects of industry in Cambridge from established concerns specialising in traditional trades to high-tech firms developing electronics and computers. They include J.S. Wilson, whose bookbinding business was established in 1830 and Ditton Binders which supplies company ring binders and menu covers 90 01 24c

1990 01 26
Plans to develop the site of the old Cattle Market into a light industrial estate met an angry response. But now it has been transformed into the Clifton Road Industrial estate with 56 units providing jobs for several hundred people. There is ample car parking and good office accommodation. The estate is fronted by the attractive Clifton Court office complex. Situated alongside the railway station, close to

the city centre with park and ride facilities on its doorstep it has good access to major roads. With its landscaping it provides an industrially useful estate and a pleasant working environment for employees 90 01 26c

1990 02 26
Trinity Hall Industrial Estate in Nuffield Road was developed in 1982 housing firms such as Cathodeon, Camlab, Serck Services, Allgoods and Andrew McCulloch. Now it includes Dan Morley Engineering, Platonoff and Harris and TeleTape Video which produces commercial videos. The estate is located on land formerly owned by Cambridge businessman, Mr Lloyd Stokes, who also owned the site on which the adjacent Cambridge Business Park is still being developed. 90 02 26a

1990 04 09
Tadpole Technology formed in 1984, now Cambridge Phenomenon success, moves into new headquarters on Science Park – 90 04 09b

1990 05 02
Rabbit, the new cordless phone system based in Cambridge is to be launched in September. Based at Westbrook Centre. To install numerous base stations – 90 05 02

1990 05 12
Philips Scientific, York Street makes redundancies in manufacturing division, making analytical instruments. Sister company Philips Radio Communications axed 120 jobs St Andrew's Road – 90 05 12a

1990 05 29
George Lister engineering company celebrates centenary, built motor racing cars; set up in Abbey Road 1890 – feature – 90 05 29a

1990 06 30
Sir Clive Sinclair's Cambridge Computer firm is moving to Scotland; meteoric rise and fall; started Sinclair Radionics in 1962, moving to Cambridge in 1967; produced digital watch and calculator, tv and computers. Won Queen's Award in 1975 and knighted 1983. But C5 flopped, marriage broke up and sold his house on Madingley Road in 1989 – 90 06 30a

1990 06 30
Sir Clive Sinclair's Cambridge Computer firm is moving to Scotland; meteoric rise and fall; started Sinclair Radionics in 1962, moving to Cambridge in 1967; produced digital watch and calculator, tv and computers. Won Queen's Award in 1975 and knighted 1983. But C5 flopped, marriage broke up and sold his house on Madingley Road in 1989 – 90 06 30a

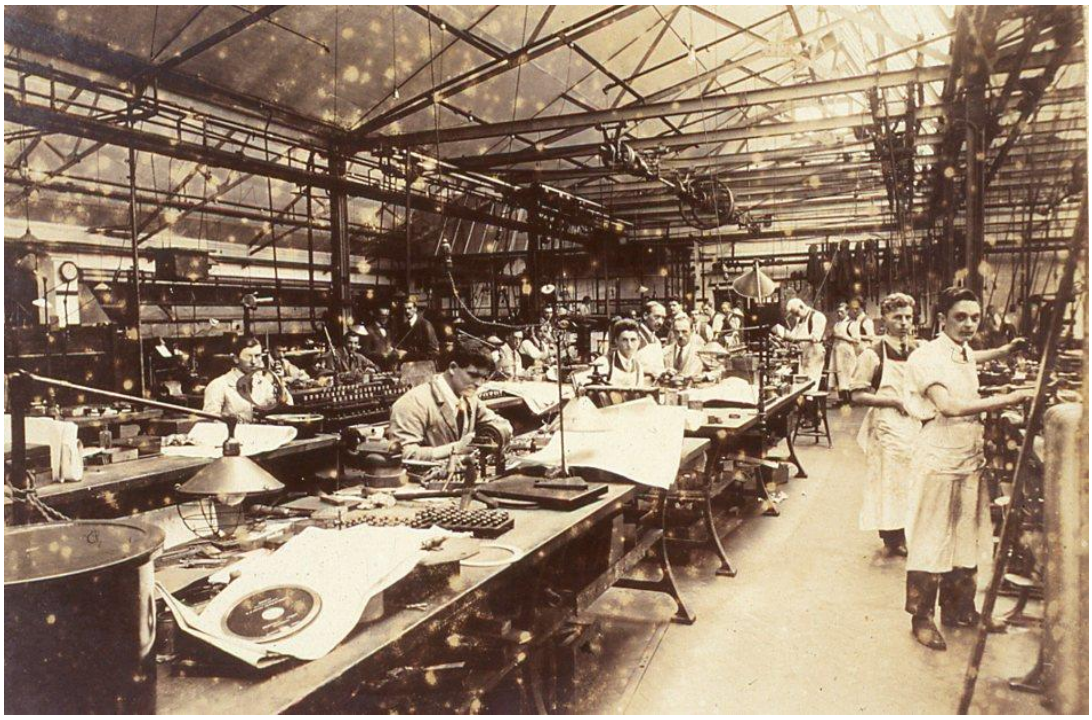
1990 11 28
Acorn Computers backed by Apple Corporation to form Advanced Risc Machines – 90 11 28b

1990 11 30
Philips to axe 300 jobs including Philips Radio Communications Systems, St Andrews Road – 90 11 30

1991 02 26
Philips Scientific, which employs 525 people at its York Street plant may be bought by Analytical Technology Inc; was formerly Pye Unicam – 91 02 26a

1994
'Cambridge Phenomenon' – success for Tadpole Technology, Advanced Risk Machines, Xaar, Ethical Pharmaceuticals, Cantab Pharmaceuticals, [Rev]

1998
Ionica, set up as a rival to BT, was placed in hands of administrators, Oct



Cambridge Instrument Company works, 1920s *168.08*

c.27.1 : Cambridge Instrument Company

1881
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company founded by Horace Darwin, makes equipment University, develops electrocardiograph;

1895
Cambridge Instrument Company formally registered, (established1881) [1.13]

1907 01 18
When Dew Smith and Horace Darwin commenced the manufacture of certain scientific instruments for physiological work at the University Laboratory it was more as a hobby and not financially profitable. But it grew and in 1895 was turned into a limited liability company which is now flourishing at its pleasantly situated works off Chesterton Road. Among its important products is a kite used in meteorological observations and a machine for standardising small screws which has been supplied to the Japanese government. 07 01 18

1914 05 29
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company welcomed visitors to their workshops, test room, drawing office and stores. They were also shown the manufacture and operation of the various instruments made. Many are of great commercial value. The extension is the fourth addition since the works were moved from Panton Street to Chesterton Road. It is the chief of the few manufacturing concerns in Cambridge and now employs 180 hands 14 05 29d & e

1914 05 29
A mysterious illness, believed to be ptomaine poisoning, attacked 50 people who attended the Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company's dinner. A considerable number of the employees had to quit work and go home, several are still seriously ill. The dinner had been given to 300 employees and their wives and was attended by the Chairman, Horace Darwin and other directors. One of their wives

is amongst the sufferers. Suspicion had fallen upon the salmon served as the second dish at the dinner which included Ox-Tail soup, roast lamb, gooseberry tarts and ginger beer. 14 05 29f

1921 07
Cambridge Scientific Instrument Company big blaze [1.5]

1947 12 11
Cambridge Instrument Company plans for research laboratory and office block in Carlyle Road referred for further consideration; area primarily residential and fear will destroy view – 47 12 11

1950 02 11
Cambridge Instrument Company erect factory Finchley, 200 workers leave Cambridge as blocked by planning [1.7]

1956 05 11
Instrument Company develop electrocardiograph [11.1]

1959 10 15
Cambridge Instrument Company opened its new research headquarters in Chesterton Road. Its four floors comprise laboratories for the development of instruments for mechanical engineering, electronics and physical chemistry together with a specious drawing office. It was a tribute to the unswerving devotion of the men who had worked there over the last 80 years, said Lord Adrian, University Vice-Chancellor. He had declined the use of a car and arrived on bicycle for the opening ceremony where he was presented with a compass 59 10 15c

1962 08 10
Cambridge Instrument Company history feature – 62 08 10 & a

1964 12 04
Cambridge Instrument Company has developed the 'Stereoscan', the first commercial scanning electron microscope. It is a result of whole-hearted co-operation between university departments and a Cambridge firm with the ability to develop a proved commercial product. Work was begun in 1952 and now the first model has been bought by the Du Pont de Nemour and Company of America 64 12 04b

1968 01 01
Cambridge manufacturing operations of the Cambridge Instrument Company Ltd groups under a new subsidiary called Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd – 68 01 01a

1968 04 30
Instrument Company takeover bid by Rank; outbid by George Kent [11.1]

1968 06 14
Government's Industrial Reorganisation Corporation buys shares in Cambridge Instrument Company following bid by George Kent firm of instrument makers – 68 06 14, 68 07 09

1970 05 14
Kent Cambridge Scientific set up in USA to market electron probe made by Cambridge Scientific Instruments – 70 05 14

1971 04 13
Cambridge Instrument Company sack 150; follows Pye redundancies earlier – 71 04 13 #

1972 09 22

Cambridge Instrument Company Medical division becomes separate company - Kent Cambridge Medical Ltd [11.1]

1973 11 25
Cambridge Medical Ltd moves Rustat road [11.1]

1975
Taken over by Metals research, Cambridge Scientific & Cambridge Medical Instruments merge into Cambridge Instrument Company

1976 12 08
More than 1,000 jobs in the Cambridge area have been saved with the supply of £3 million of public money to the Cambridge Instrument Company, following a £1.85 million trading loss. The company has suffered serious financial troubles since it was set up after Metals Research Ltd of Melbourn took over Cambridge Scientific Instruments Ltd 15 months ago. The company is one of the leading British manufacturers of scientific instruments with opposition coming from Japan, the USA and West Germany. It is to retain this technology in Britain that the Government has put up the new money 76 12 08

1977 12 02
Instrument Company announce another £2m loss [11.1]

1978 04 08
The Cambridge Instrument Company is being taken over by the Government following a trading year in which it lost £2.8 million. That's the effect of the National Enterprise Board's decision to increase its shares to 80 per cent. The intention is to let the company go independent again in three years' time if it makes enough sales generating cash flow and profits by then. The chairman of the Company said: "This is the best thing for us in the short and medium term. Now we can go forward with confidence and have a lot more scope and room in which to manoeuvre" 78 04 08

1979 01 31
Instrument Company announce £3M loss, more NEB money [11.1]

1979 08 01
Instrument Company - 150 jobs go [11.1]

1979 10 12
Instrument Company - NEB sell off majority interest to new company, Gladecrown [11.1]

1981 04 02
Cambridge Medical becomes part of Picker International 1981 [11.1]

1982 11 03
Cambridge Instruments returns profit 1982 [11.1]

1983 05 05
Kent Industrial Measurements is to end its century-old Cambridge link with the closure of its works in Rosemary Lane. The firm, which makes gas monitoring equipment, is transferring production as part of a restructuring plan. Most of the 82 staff are being offered jobs at other Kent sites at Eaton Socon and Stonehouse in Gloucestershire. Originally it was part of Cambridge Instruments but have been totally separate for many years 83 05 05 p6

1985 02 11
Clive Segal rescued CIC, joined 1979 when £3 million loss and now business increasing

1989
Cambridge Instrument Co dates back to 1881, founded by Sir Horace Darwin to design & make instruments for experimental research in the university & other laboratories; registered as company in 1895 ... collaboration with university establishments important & many distinguished scientists co-operated in design of instruments; Research Department in Chesterton Rd has three laboratories covering physics with electronics, chemistry & mechanical engineering

1989 07 11
Cambridge Instrument Company taken over by Leitz ¢CEN 11.7.89

Marshall's hangars, 1960s *158.16*

c.27.1 : Marshall's –

note: see also sections on Aviation and Motoring

1909
D.G. Marshall set up Brunswick Gardens 1909 [12.1]

1912
Marshall's moved King St & Jesus Lane 1912

1929 03 16
The new edict with regard to flying by undergraduates is well timed. Conington aerodrome is used by the Aeroplane Club and now comes news of a private aerodrome for Cambridge. Marshalls, automobile engineers of Jesus Lane are opening it shortly. It is on the main Newmarket Road less than two miles from Cambridge. There is a railway station 200 yards away and a 20-minute bus service connection. One hangar has already been erected and the whole site is about to be put down to grass. Marshalls are agents for the de Haviland Aircraft Company and already have their own demonstration machine ready at the aerodrome.

1929 06 10
Cambridge air pageant for opening Marshall's airfield CDN 10.6.29

1931 06 19
An aerobatist was killed at the University air pageant. He was flying an Avro, looping the loop, rolling and spiral diving when the machine appeared to break and crashed to the earth. Mr Honour, ground engineer at Marshall's Flying School, said that tools were kept at the aerodrome for extricating pilots but some delay was caused as the machine was made of metal, not wood. He

obtained a hacksaw to cut part of the wreckage and within 20 minutes the pilot was taken to Hospital, terribly injured. 31 06 19b

1932 10 14
Cambridge town councillors saw their constituencies from a new angle when they took the air in Sir Alan Cobham's big liner. He was visiting Marshall's aerodrome with his fleet of planes and many gathered to see his display. The Mayor was unable to be present and the deputy mayor preferred solid ground. When the party was about to take off it was discovered to number 13, so the County Chief Constable stepped into the breech and the plane both ascended and descended safely. They made a comprehensive survey of the town with its ring of new housing estates though the new County Hall looked more impressive than the huddled roofs of the Guildhall. 32 10 14a

1934 03 03
Marshall's Flying School had offered to buy Elfleda Farm, Fen Ditton for a public aerodrome, county councillors were told. Financially it would be a very good deal, giving them a profit of £3,000 for land they'd earmarked for smallholdings. But it was a very growing neighbourhood and the aerodrome would be a source of great annoyance to residents who didn't want these noisy things coming at all hours of the day and night. Mr Marshall would be getting a thunderingly good deal, others argued. The sale was agreed 34 03 03

1934 05 15
Marshall's Flying School propose to carry out improvements to their aerodrome and had purchased Elfleda Farm through which the proposed Ring Road would run. They asked the Council to move the route slightly east. But the Surveyor said this was not possible. The whole of the land is zoned for dwelling houses and this would be have to be borne in mind if any proposals were made to them for further developing this aerodrome 34 05 15

1935 08 15
A special meeting was called to discuss a complaint from Marshall's Flying School who felt the council was obstructing their business by aligning a road across the existing aerodrome site so they could not compete with a planned municipal airfield. Councillor A.C. Taylor had gone away on vacation but on receiving the agenda had chartered an aeroplane to get to the meeting. Ald Stephen said there had been a number of underhand actions and he wanted an assurance that Marshall's would not be prejudiced. It was agreed that the previous resolution was not in order. 35 08 15

1936 01 28
The Air Ministry say it is very desirable that a new Cambridge municipal aerodrome site should be provided in the near future. Land at Milton had been recommended by Sir Alan Cobham but this would cost more than £33,000 and take at least two years to build. Messrs Marshall's existing flying ground at Newmarket Road is quite inadequate for present requirements and they could have a new site at Teversham ready in a year, councillors heard. 36 01 28b & c 36 01 30a

1936 02 07
The question of a Municipal Aerodrome for Cambridge has at last been settled. Messrs Marshall's new aerodrome at Teversham will be of sufficient size to enable Cambridge to have a fully licensed airport competent to meet the needs of commercial and civil flying. The council will remove the present restrictions on the site and divert a footpath but will have the option of purchasing the undertaking in 40 years and afterwards every ten years 36 02 07

1937 03 04
Sir Alan Cobham, the world-famous airman, spoke in favour of a nine-bedroom Airport Hotel on Newmarket Road. Every Continental airfield had a hotel where accommodation was available in the same way as at a terminal railway station. A man had a terrible inconvenience when he landed at an airport and a first-class hotel was one of the amenities which was going to make people fly. A rival

proposal by Lacons Brewery was withdrawn: people like Mr Marshall who were training pilots were doing a work of very great importance and entitled to reasonable facilities. 37 03 04a & b 37 03 05

1937 03 05
Annual Business review: description of activities: Marshall's – 37 03 05b

1938 10 06
Cambridge aerodrome has been in use for some months but the building operations have only recently been completely finished. The immense aeroplane hangar already houses over 20 machines and has room for more. The engine overhaul and repair shops are every well-equipped and all the parachutes are stored, packed and aired. The airport hotel has lounge bar, dining rooms and kitchen with guest rooms on the second floor. I have seen a lot of aerodromes but this takes a lot of beating for its well-planned layout 38 10 06

1938 10 07
Cambridge airfield was opened by Secretary of State for Air. There was no airport in Europe, with the possible exception of Berlin, which is so conveniently placed in relation to the town. D.G. Marshall recalled that in 1919 he purchased his first hangar from the Disposal Board and bought his first aeroplane. Some of his neighbours had told them to take their business elsewhere and now they had moved further out. The Flying School has been run in full understanding of University regulations; in most aerodromes the most profit-making department is the club bar, but there is not one here. 38 10 07b & c

1938 10 15
Marshalls' spacious new motor premises on Jesus Lane include an entrance and exit to the petrol and oil filling stations, wide enough for three lines of traffic. There are showrooms on three upper floors which are approached by ramps, with the stores department in the basement. The garage and workshops behind is equipped with the most modern and up-to-date machinery and run by a large and efficient staff. The whole is laid out to afford every luxury and comfort for the motorist 38 10 15, b

1939 03 27
Marshall's airfield new hangars – 39 03 27

1939-45
Marshall's repair & overhaul operational RAF bombers & fighters, including Whitley bombers with women workers; for time was operational squadron of Lysanders & Newmarket Road closed for security with traffic diverted through Fen Ditton, Teversham Lane closed civilian traffic, also Mosquito, Typhoons & Dakotas [15.1]

1940 01 30
Ministry veto new houses, price agreed for Marshall's land, ring road work continues – 40 01 30b, c

1944 10 26
Marshall's Flying School strike - 44 10 26a

1946 10 19
If an aircraft brought to Marshalls and found to be unusable it was certified to be broken up; certain parts had to be salvaged if in order, if not a hammer put through them and put on salvage dump; one workman had taken clock from Dakota; during war he had won B.E.M. for putting out fire in main hangar – 46 10 19

1948 08 07
A Cambridge firm is to help the air-lift to Berlin. Messrs Marshalls are to service some of the RAF Dakotas taking part in the lift. Marshalls did a big job servicing RAF planes in the war and have more

recently worked on Mosquitoes. This however will be the first time the planned maintenance system has been operated by the firm, though a similar system is in use in their vehicle repair shop

1948 09 27
Marshall motor body industry, p7

1948 10 09 c
Cambridge Trades council is backing an effort being made by local industry to obtain additional houses. The initiative in this matter has been taken by Marshall's Flying School. Pre-war they employed 3-400 people. At the war's end they had 3,700 on the payroll. They had purchased 7 houses and had converted an office block to flats to house a further 12 workers but it had reached a limit to which it could tie up capital in housing. There was a problem of workers lodged in the town who had families elsewhere. Added to this the regional Ministry Headquarters being stationed in Cambridge had created a demand for girls as clerks and typists

1951 01 11
The Minister of Supply, Mr G.R. Strauss, toured Cambridge industry. He visited Pye Ltd, the Marshall organisation and the Cambridge Instrument Company and said he had been 'very favourably impressed by the spirit in all the works'. Although production of radio sets would be curtailed, work on the electronics side of rearmament would absorb employees affected. Rearmament made more demands on the aircraft and electronic industries than on most others, he said.

1953 02 25
Messrs Cheffins put Allen's Farm, Teversham, up for sale by auction. The farm of 187 acres which lies about 3½ miles from the City Centre attracted a large company and the bidding quickly advanced to £17,700 at which figure it was knocked down to Marshall's Flying School. It is understood that this was the first auction of property in Teversham since 1906.

1953 09 24
Marshall ambulance, p4

1953 12 04
The possibility that Marshall's airfield might be used by jets and other high-powered aircraft provoked a vigorous debate at Cambridge City Council. Coun Warren protested at the construction of a hard landing strip: "The town is going to be menaced by high-powered aircraft which we know nothing about". But Coun Collins suggested that more powerful aircraft must come in time and added "The aircraft now landing there will soon be obsolete". Ald James asked: "If it is essential should the ground have not been moved further out into the country?" 53 12 04

1955 08 05
After vigorously debating for over ninety minutes Cambridge councillors voted to protest to the Minister of Housing about plans for the erection of a hangar at Marshall's airfield. It would be a "fearful monstrosity being shoved up within 50 feet of peoples' back gardens". Having lost their planning powers to the county in 1947 they were perhaps impotent to help residents but should register their views. 55 08 05a & b

1955 10 12
King Feisal of Iraq paid a private visit to Cambridge as the guest of the Vice-Chancellor of the University. He arrived late because of fog and after lunching at Christ's College visited the Wren Library at Trinity and the Fitzwilliam Museum. He then travelled to Marshall's airfield where he displayed keen interest in a Venom IV jet aircraft and the Comet jet and Viscount turboprop airliners. In the Royal party was Mr Tariq Al Askari who was at Cambridge as a student 55 10 12b

1956 03 13

Marshall's Flying School were granted permission to double the width of the 'hard land strip' on the airfield and extend it from the boundary of Coldham's Lane to the boundary of Teversham Road provided they erect suitable fences to prevent the possibility of jet slipstreams from reaching the roads. However planners feel the aerodrome is wrongly sited adjoining a residential area and that no further development should be given approval. 56 03 13a

1959
Marshall's bus division started 1959 [14.6]

1959 08 25
A fuel cell which produces useful quantities of electricity by consuming hydrogen and oxygen has been invented by F.T. Bacon of Lt Shelford and developed by Marshall's under a National Development Corporation contract. The present cell, containing two electrodes immersed in a solution of caustic soda or potash, is still in its rudimentary stages but it can supply enough electricity to operate a circular saw, a fork lift truck or even carry out welding. The Americans are interested in using it for manned space stations or space rockets. 59 08 25 & a

1960 05 03
Passengers can now fly from Cambridge to almost anywhere in the world after Customs made available facilities for checking passports and luggage at the airport. Three large buildings are being converted into comfortable passenger transit, baggage and customs halls in readiness for the holiday rush. Marshall's have installed specialised electronic equipment and hope to develop it into the largest civil flying field in Eastern England. They also hope to capture the valuable trade of US service personnel from nearby bases to the Continent 60 05 03a

1960 09 06
Marshall of Cambridge Electronics develop analyser used in nuclear physics – 60 09 06

1961 04 11
Whitehill and Peverel housing estates have no claim to antiquity but their names have considerable historical interest. The Whitehill Estate occupies an area which was for about eight years, the first Marshall's airfield, and before that Whitehill Farm. The first houses to be built in the area was Elfleda House, alias Whitehill, which after 70 years occupation, has just been demolished to make room for maisonettes.

1961 08 18
The Dragon Rapide, one of the most popular types of aircraft from de Havilland, is disappearing from the local scene. Until recently Marshall's Flying Services used a fleet of four to operate charter services for jockeys and trainers from Newmarket. Built between 1934 and 1946 they are economical to operate and maintain and even now are a common sight. Some firms use them as executive machines while others still plod the air routes. Marshall's has not entirely said farewell to the bi-plane era: they still have five Tiger Moths for instructional flying 61 08 18

1964 98 23
Cambridge airport, an asset to city – feature on Marshall's – 64 09 23a

1965 06 23
Marshall's design men strike over wages – 65 06 23

1965 02 04
Marshall's on knife-edge due Government cut P1154 jump jet [14.6]

1965 04 13
TR-2 men at Marshall's sacked following Government cancellation project – 65 04 13a

1965 11 19
Marshall's design interiors of luxury jets [14.6]

1966
Marshall's start to service Hercules aircraft (modify 1973 & 1978, convert for in-flight refuelling for Falklands, work day & night, stretch Hercules (1982) [15.1]

1966 10 26
Marshall's build buses for all parts of world [14.6]

1968 04 29
Marshall's garage move into new extension at Cambridge Airfield – 68 04 29

1968 11 04
Marshall's to divert road for runway extension [15.1]

1969 02 20
Marshall Group a combination of aircraft work, shipping container manufacture, commercial bodies & research & development work on ministry vehicles project [15.1]

1971 08 05
1st Vulcan bomber, Marshall's [15.1]

1972 02 26
Production of the noses of the Concorde supersonic airliner, which was planned to be in Cambridge, has been taken away by the British Aircraft Corporation. All the research and development work on the nose has been done by Marshall's at Cambridge airport. The senior shop steward is to see the Cambridge MP, Mr David Lane to try to get the decision reversed

1972 10 12
A charge that they are workshy has been levelled against the unemployed of Cambridge by a shop stewards committee representing the largest engineering business in the city, Marshall of Cambridge. The senior union men are angry at the inability of their firm to find sufficient labour to maintain an important long-term Government contract. They cannot understand why with 897 registered unemployed in Cambridge it is proving impossible for Marshalls and other firms in the area to fill their labour needs. They ask "Do the men rally want work? Or do they have sidelines which make it unnecessary for them to take up jobs paying up to £30 a week?"

1972 12 07
A large out-of-town shopping complex covering about 10 acres is being planned for Newmarket Road, just outside the Cambridge boundary. But Cambridge planning committee decided to resist the project. Fears were expressed about the effect the shopping centre would have for the city council's plans for redeveloping the Burleigh Street - Fitzroy Street area. Marshalls of Cambridge (Engineering) made an application to develop the shopping complex, together with car parking and garages on a site immediately to the East of their vehicular workshops off Newmarket Road. The site faces Cambridge airport

1973 06 18
Marshall of Cambridge (Engineering) have just finished a nose transplant - on a giant Hercules transport aircraft. The successful transplant "operation" took two years to perform. The modified aircraft will investigate turbulence in clear and cloudy weather and is the only one of its kind. Inside the Hercules the transformation has been no less striking. A laboratory has been constructed and four scientists can keep track of data as it flows from the nose instruments to the aircraft's "brain centre"

1973 07 25

A commercial radio consortium backed by three of the largest firms in Cambridge are asking other city organisations to join them in making plans for local broadcasting. The group have the support of Cambridge Newspapers ltd, the Pye group and Marshall of Cambridge. They represent the first major opposition to the Cambridge Community Broadcasting Company - a consortium set up several years ago by Mr Brian Jackson of the city-based Advisory Centre for Education. It may be almost 1980 before there is any chance of Cambridge getting a commercial station

1974 01 02
Marshalls exempt from three-day week, p13

1976 07 30
The garage business of B.E. Cocks and Co. at Newmarket Road, Cambridge, has been bought by Marshall of Cambridge, and is to become a Leyland car centre. The purchase includes almost four acres of prime garage site next to the main A45 road, modern showrooms and repair facilities and the goodwill of a business which has been running in the city for almost half a century. This and the capturing of the Daimler, Jaguar, Rover and Triumph franchises from Wallis and Sons means the Marshall group is a real force against the big garage chains operating in the region.

1977 01 18
Marshall buy Oliver Rix, p11

1978 08 09
A major aircraft building job is being given to Marshall's of Cambridge by the Ministry of Defence. It involves the stretching of the fuselages of 29 Hercules aircraft to allow it to carry extra cargo. The conversion will be fitted into the normal overhaul and serving work which the firm carries on. Sir Arthur Marshall said: "At the moment we are on various major contracts for the Hercules – replacement of wing centre sections and outer wings – as well as work on military and civil aircraft from all over the world". 78 08 09

1982 02 26
The revolutionary government of Iran tried to buy spare parts for military aircraft from Marshall of Cambridge, despite the Western arms embargo. The order was hidden in a web of false documentation but Marshall had immediate doubts as only a limited number of countries could need spares for the giant C-130 Hercules. They discovered the parts were to be shipped to Libya after arriving in Italy and contact the anti-terrorist squad. 82 02 26

1982 04 93
Marshall's engineers have provided the Falkland Islands task force with a vital new component in their armoury – a transport aircraft that can be refuelled in mid-air. They have carried out conversion work on a prototype Hercules 130, the RAF's workhorse, in record time. The giant transporter had its first test-flight from Cambridge this week when the system worked without problems. The Marshalls men are jubilant that they got it right first time and so quickly. 82 04 30a

1982 06 29
RAF Brampton, headquarters of Support Command had the job of ensuring that every item needed for the Falklands war arrived where they should. They were charged with recovering refuelling probes from scrapped Vulcans around the country, baffling onlookers when a lorry-load of engineers came screaming up to a plane on public display, leapt out, disconnect the probe and drove off with it. They were then sent to Marshall of Cambridge who have been converting Hercules C130s for in-flight refuelling. 82 06 29 & 29a

1982 11 15
Marshall's giant hanger plan [15.1]

1983 02 17

A 130-ton TriStar airliner, the largest ever to land at Marshall's, marks the start of a six-plane conversion programme that will keep the firm's 800-strong aero-engineering staff in work for the next four years. The £50 million contract is to convert four into 37,500-gallon tankers for flight refuelling duties and the others to freighters with big cargo doors. 83 02 17

1984 03 07
George Webb Haulage, which started over 40 years ago, are willing to move anything. Now they have moved themselves from Willingham to new offices in Longstanton. Two years ago Marshall's of Cambridge rang to ask why they did not use British trucks. When they heard the Webbs' specialist needs were not catered for they arranged a meeting with the manager of Leyland trucks. The resulting vehicle is now in production at the Scammell factory. 84 03 07

1984 10 01
The Cambridge-based Marshall Group celebrated its 75th birthday as early examples of motorised transport of all kinds were on show at the Motoring Milestones Pageant at the East of England Showground. They included cars from the humblest Austin Chummy to the most magnificent Rolls-Royce, lorries, buses, vans a motor-cycles. There was also a display of the latest vehicles sold by the group. Sir Arthur and Lady Marshall cut an anniversary cake 84 10 01 p13

1985 11 07
Dr Clive Sinclair is one of the few British industrialists to challenge the Japanese and American dominance in electronics. Although his C5 vehicle venture went into liquidation this week he is still afloat, still only 45 and has enormous resources. So it is a very good time for Rodney Dale, a literate man who knows Cambridge science well, to have produced his biography giving an invaluable glimpse of a significant period in Cambridge's electronic history. 85 11 07

1985 11 16
Marshalls retains contract on Hercules transport aircraft – 85 11 16

1986 07 10
Marshalls contract for Lockheed early-warning plane – 86 07 10c

1987 10 06
An amazing plan to relocate Marshall's Airport to Waterbeach airfield and use the hundreds of acres vacant for a massive housing estate will be put to county councillors. It would solve the city's shortage of land for housing and end aircraft noise problems for residents. The move would create more jobs and relieve traffic. There would then be no need to spend millions of pounds on a proposed new overspill village in the fens. But the airport authorities do not agree. 87 10 06

1988 03 17
Marshalls granted permission for Jumbo jet repair & maintenance hangar – 88 03 17

Pye

employees leaving Radio works 1930s *147.57*

c.27.1 : **Pye**

Pye.
In 1896 William George Pye left Cavendish Laboratory & began to design scientific instruments for university students; WWI expanded, made gun sights; Pye radio formed 1929, experimented with tv & in early 1930 able to receive a 30-line picture, by 1936 405-line sets in production; with WWII turned to radar; Pye telecom devised first infantry walkie-talkie & large numbers made 1947 mobile television transmission station, printed circuits incorporated 1956. 1961 first convertible 405/625 sets 1947 installed 2-way radios in fleet of Cambridge taxis; electronic stethoscope ... now upwards of 100 individual companies of Pye group majority in Cambridge or East Anglia Techne

1896
W.G. Pye started & after 1918 specialised in wireless, Pye Radio formed 1929; by 1952 was largest manufacturer of tv sets in Britain [1.14]

1913
W.G. Pye & Co new scientific Instrument works opened by Prof Thomson [2.2]

1913 04 25
Local inventions patents – W.G. Pye

1919 04 02
Cambridge industries: what firms have done during the war; how to encourage factories; address by H.S. Whipple. Includes: W.G. Pye made height finders for aeroplanes, special telescopes, sights for guns, electrical instruments etc; 19 04 02a

1921
Pye Ltd changed to radio 1921 when lapse in demand for instruments; 210 ft aerial mast put up at start war to help develop defence systems & once used very low power experimental tv programmes [446.17.1]

1922 11 21
The growth of wireless since its first invention is truly wonderful, and one cannot fail to be impressed with the way in which it has been simplified. The present arrangements for "broadcasting" have resulted in the setting up of many private installations in Cambridge and some of the finest "sets" are being produced at Messrs G.H. Pye's works in Cam Road. In 1921 this firm experienced a very slack time, and in order to keep their workers employed, they commenced experiments in wireless. They are now producing as fast as they can simplified receiving sets of two to five valves

1922 12 09
The Cambridge & District Wireless Society had a "full house" at their demonstration on broadcasting. Mr T. Robinson, manager of Pye's Scientific Instrument Co. had very kindly consented to demonstrate their latest broadcast receiver of five valves attached to which was a Magnavox loud-speaking telephone. Mr Robinson tuned up for the London broadcasting station and amongst the items heard were Mr Vivian Foster, known to Cambridge theatre-goers as the "vicar of mirth" who entertained the audience by his witty sayings. During the evening the Birmingham and Manchester broadcasting stations were also received. The latest news, billiard scores, market reports and latest weather report were items among a very varied programme

1926 06 01
Now that the excitement of the General Strike has passed away it may be of interest to note the effect of the strike upon local employment. Messrs Pye have only had about 2½ days short time but at the Cement Works the coal difficulty has resulted in a spell of enforced idleness for some of the hands. The Saxon Company's employees are being given their usual holidays on full pay and since short time started have been given work turn and turn about on repairs but unless the coal comes along there will be no more work for the present.

1928 09 11
The Cambridge works of Messrs W.G. Pye, the well-known scientific instrument and wireless apparatus makers were entered and the workshops and office ransacked. The works consist of several blocks of buildings extending from Cam Road to St Andrew's church at Old Chesterton. The visitor got into the transformer shop and then into a corridor by means of a hole which had been made in the wall for the fixing of a checking clock. Practically no damage was done and only a small sum of money is missing. It appears he was not a wireless enthusiast because none of the wireless parts were taken

1932 01 22
Pye Radio invited people to inspect their works and queues five or six deep stretched halfway up Haig Road. It is amazing that a non-industrial town should have such fine works and few realised that we in Cambridge had such an important and highly organised industry in our midst. In these times of depression it is a novelty to find a works which is really flourishing. Despite making 4,000 sets a week, demand is greater than supply and they are planning to increase the size of the works by 50 percent. 32 01 22c & d

1932 03 21
Cambridge Metal Stamping Company applied for permission to erect a modern factory at the rear of St Andrew's Road. This was an area zoned for residential use but was nearly opposite the Gasworks, which was not entirely a thing of beauty and the Corporation's pumping station, which was not quite as attractive as the gasworks. Pye's works close to the river were not at all objectionable, nor was Banham's boat building establishment. Despite reservations it was agreed. 32 03 21, 23 & a

1932 11 18
H.R.H. Prince George toured the Pye Radio Works where 1,500 hands produce 4,000 radio receivers a week. This is the first time a factory engaged in Britain's newest and most progressive industry has been honoured by a Royal visit. The operatives gave him a rousing reception – the girls were especially enthusiastic: it was a wonderful study to observe their varying expressions as he passed through the workshops. "Oh, he's lovely" was the general verdict and every detail of his dress, appearance and manner have furnished a fruitful topic of conversation in Cambridge homes 32 11 18a

1934 12 22
All records connected with Pye Radio dances were broken when over 600 attended the annual Christmas ball at the Dorothy. Practically everybody knew everybody else and consequently the crowd was a thoroughly cheerful and merry throng. Not one glum face was to be seen either in the ballroom or the bar. Fancy hats and novelties added greatly to the carnival gaiety and the Percy Cowell and the Pyradians bands rose to the occasion in a lively manner. 34 12 22

1937 05 12
At the Coronation celebrations one small tent attracted probably more interest than any other with the possible exception of the tea tent. It contained a Pye television apparatus and during the afternoon many availed themselves of the opportunity of seeing the actual Coronation procession taking place. Although Cambridge is almost out of range of Alexandra Palace, everything came through very well. Almost the only interference was experienced when the motor racing was being held in the area only a few yards away 37 05 12b

1937 09 18
Pye Radio Sports and Social Club held their first dance at the Rendezvous ballroom. Les Walton and his band were in fine form playing some of the 'hit' numbers of the past two months which were danced with gusto. The high spot was a cabaret item by Sammy Parker whose rendering of 'September in the Rain' was followed by his speciality dance which even the 'hula-hula' girls would have envied. The attendance was one of the largest the ballroom has known with dancers arriving until quite late. 37 09 18

1938 03 10
Cambridge Reference Library was packed to capacity for a lecture and demonstration on television by Mr D. Jackson of Pye Ltd. Severe electrical interference unfortunately ruined the first half of the programme from the Alexandra Palace but when after half-past-nine this eased off they were able to see some quite good vision signals and appreciate the high standard which can be expected in an area where interference is not so acute as it is in the centre of the town. 38 03 10

c1939
Build 210 foot mast St Andrews Rd at beginning war to help develop defence systems; once used for very low power tv programmes during war to help Pye develop receivers [27]

1944
Pye Telecom founded [446. 15.3]

1945 06 08
Secret jobs by Labs & Pye – Radiolocation – Ground Control of Interception designed and built by University Cavendish scientists in conjunction Pye engineers – put fighters at right height on tail of enemy aircraft near enough to pick them up on Airborne Interception equipment – 45 06 08

1945 11 01
Revolutionary new television system demonstrated by Pye Ltd in their television theatre – would allow production receivers for £40 – CDN 1945 11 01

1947 02 08
2,500 Pye employees workless though power cut, p4

1947 03 04
There is to be no night-shift in Cambridge. Instead there will be an attempt by local industry to save, during normal hours, 30 per cent of its electricity consumption. To do this the larger firms, among them Pye's and Marshalls Flying School, will make use of stand-by generator sets which will relieve the grid at peak periods. The breweries have worked out plans to transfer part of their share of the load by running a proportion of their machinery outside the peak hours. A spokesman said this might be described as "a semi-nightshift". A large proportion of the peak load is accounted for by domestic users who will have to make a drastic reduction in the use of electrical appliances if industry is to avoid cuts in power, p5

1948 01 20
Often it happens that a visitor to Cambridge says: "Well there's the University; what industries have you?" The answer is invariably on the lines "Oh nothing much - wireless and jam and so on". A visit to the "Cambridge at Work" exhibition in the Corn Exchange will give a much better insight into the activities at the wireless and jam factories, and the other industrial concerns, and will enable him to gain a true appreciation of the part that a light industrial centre like Cambridge is playing in the country's struggle. Pye Ltd are showing the latest in radio and television receivers.

1948 01 21
Any local viewers of television might recently have seen a rather surprising cookery demonstration - during which fish and vegetables were cooked in the space of three minutes. This astonishing revolution in cookery timing was accomplished by means of a pressure cooker. These utensils, which look like ordinary saucepans, were shown at last year's Ideal Homes Exhibition. They are now finding their way in the shops and are being demonstrated at Messrs Herbert Robinson Ltd's Regent Street store. They are made by a subsidiary firm of Messrs Pye Ltd
1948 01 24
Yesterday's "Workers' Playtime" radio programme came from Pye's canteen, Cambridge. Some 850 workers selected by ballot crowded in to enjoy the programme. After preliminary community singing practice the "on the air" red light signal in front of the stage lit up and the audience broke into the programme's signature tune, "Side by Side". The Radio Revellers sang "There's Nobody Here But Us Chickens", "Shoemaker's Serenade" and "Chinatown" in brisk, amusing and original style. They were followed by Forsythe, Seamon and Farrell, the wise-cracking American trio.

1948 03 18
Pye Ltd, celebrating their golden jubilee this year, are to mark the occasion by the gift of two television sets to every college in the University. Describing Pye Ltd as "a fairly important company in the industrial life of Cambridge" Mr C.O. Stanley said that during the war the firm employed nearly 12,000 people, today they had between three and four thousand. He went on to speak of the firm's association with the University - one "so happy and so close that I believe it will always make a mark with the people working with this business". Professor Sir Lawrence Bragg said he had always been very interested in the relation between science and industry and the co-operation that existed during the war showed there were contributions to be made from both sides. He hoped this co-operation would continue in the future 48 03 18

1948 03 24
Pye profit-sharing scheme, p6

1948 05 05
Pye factory development proposals, p8

1948 11 26

For the first time anywhere in the world, a new series of television was used to promote road safely at Cambridge. Traffic scenes on Market Hill were televised to the Accident Prevention Exhibition in the Corn Exchange. "Closed-circuit" as it is called is the latest development of the Cambridge firm of Pye Ltd. Two cameras were operated, one fixed to the balcony of the Guildhall and the other on top of a van at the corner of Petty Cury. Along this narrow, one-way street, between 8am and 6pm approximately 7,000 bicycles and 2,000 other vehicles pass each weekday. The slow speed of the traffic and its one-way direction helps to keep the accident rate down

1949 02 12
The BBC have completed tests and accepted delivery of a new Outside Broadcast Control Vehicle from Pye ltd of Cambridge. Everything required for the production and transmission of a complete television broadcast is contained in this unique mobile unit, the most modern equipment of its kind in the world, including a set of three of the latest Pye turret-headed television cameras. It is the first Pye outside broadcast vehicle produced for the BBC and the first to go into regular service since the war.

1949 03 26
Television brought the boat race into thousands of homes with equipment produced by Pye Radio Ltd playing a prominent part. A Pye transmitter was on the launch "Conseuta" and the static cameras from Barnes Bridge onwards were a product of the Cambridge firm. The relay was a tremendous success, with viewers sharing every one of the thrills of this greatest of all boat races. Approximately 600 people heard the broadcast in the Central Cinema. This evening there will be a free television show by Pye in the circle lounge

1949 03 29
A Cambridge firm has scored another technical triumph. The first demonstration of television in Australia was given in Melbourne with equipment made in Cambridge by Pye Ltd. The complete television transmitting station and a supply of receivers were flown to Australia. British enterprise has again won through in face of strong competition from America.

1949 04 29
Cambridge council were told that some 20 years ago Messrs Pye asked for the Church meadow, Chesterton, to build a factory. There was strong opposition in letters to the press. It was one of the beauty spots of "a drab place called Old Chesterton". It was pointed out then that the firm would spread out and that was what had happened. The land concerned was 2½ acres of valuable front land which the council purchased before the war and which the people of Chesterton were told was going to be a park. If the council did not sell the land Pye might move their factory. The decision to sell was confirmed.

1949 10 22
Death W.G. Pye, p9

1949 11 08
Pye Ltd have entered the American television market as part of the British campaign for dollars. The equipment consists of a complete television station, including cameras and telecines to project films. A team of five technicians have gone and will help in the demonstrations along with two officials, Mr B.J. Edwards and Mr John Lakin who will demonstrate it to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington.

1949 11 09
Sir – I would like to voice my opinion of the canteen prices of Messrs Pye Ltd. Main meal (choice of two) 1s., was 10d. Sweet 4d., was 3d. Bread & butter ¾ d a slice, was ½d. I fail to see why employees wish to take a matter like this to the Trades Council, as these prices still constitute the lowest that can be obtained in normal factory canteens. We now get a choice of two main meals and two sweets as against one in the past, also we now get bread and butter, instead of margarine. I am

sure that the staff themselves can only say that the meals now worth every penny of the rise in cost – W.E. Wilmhurst

1949 11 29
Damage believed approaching £900,000 was done when fire destroyed several thousand of finished wireless sets, 300-400 television sets and numerous components stored in a hangar rented by Pye Ltd at the former stereo works in Madingley Road. A director said: "Many of the sets were for export. Included in the stock destroyed were several thousand television cabinets. Some of our telecommunication equipment was also stored there, including a complete set of blind landing equipment due to be shipped today" 49 11 29

1950 03 01
A swifter and more efficient ambulance service is in action this week – thanks to radio control. This innovation, which has already proved its worth with the police and fire brigade, has had a successful trial with the county ambulance service. Radio control was fitted to their four ambulances and two utilicons by Pye Telecommunications and all vehicles are in constant call from the control room, newly equipped with receiver, transmitter and microphone. A number of Cambridge commercial firms have now followed the lead of Camtax in installing radio telephones and Cambridge must be among the world's most advanced towns in the field of radio control

1950 07 09
One of the most impressive firework displays seen in Cambridge since VJ Day came as a climax to the Pye Radio Jubilee Sports, held on the sports club ground. Starting at 2pm and lasting until midnight there was something to cater for all tastes – with the added attraction of a specially imported fairground complete with dodgems. A crowd estimated at 4,000 passed through the gates during the day and the refreshment tents and ice-cream sellers did record business

1950 09 22
Television viewers in De Freville district found themselves "looking in" to an extra programme after the BBC transmission had finished. An explanation from the Chairman of Pye Ltd, "we were televising at the works on a closed-circuit and there was a leaky cable", he said. A viewer said, "We saw Annette Mills and her puppet kitten doing some washing, Dickie Murdock also appeared as did Jack and Daphne Barker. There was some advertising matter including a reference to the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce. The transmission came from a transmitter the Pye Company was testing out prior to ending it to an exhibition in Berlin

1950 11 01
Mr C.O. Stanley, Managing Director of Pye Ltd told the Radio Industries Club luncheon, "we have now arrived at a time when we should put down a second television system in this country – a system which operates two programmes on the ultra-high frequency band, both in colour at the same time; one to be operated by the BBC and the other by commercial interests. We have to have alternatives, I don't think it is possible to put out a single programme and cover the tastes of everyone"

1951 01 11
The Minister of Supply, Mr G.R. Strauss, toured Cambridge industry. He visited Pye Ltd, the Marshall organisation and the Cambridge Instrument Company and said he had been 'very favourably impressed by the spirit in all the works'. Although production of radio sets would be curtailed, work on the electronics side of rearmament would absorb employees affected. Rearmament made more demands on the aircraft and electronic industries than on most others, he said

1951 01 19
Local firms are amongst those to whom the De Havilland enterprise has paid public tribute for their contribution in supplying parts for the two Comet jet airlines whose achievements have been acclaimed throughout the world as an outstanding example of British enterprise. They are Aero research of Duxford, whose 'Redux' metal-to-metal bonding is used throughout the airframe,

Magnetic Devises, Ditton Works, Cambridge who supply relays and Pye Ltd who developed micro-switches for the plane.

1951 07 27
Two hundred London taxis took the road this morning under orders for the first time, over a short wave radio network system pioneered by Pye Radio technicians from Cambridge. In London, at a big party attended by top stage and screen stars to celebrate the inauguration of this new radiocab service was Mr Harry Woolgar, a director of Pye Telecommunications Ltd. He said: "This is the largest radio-telephone system taxi network in Europe and we are planning a larger system capable of directing 1,000 taxis". Pye got the job because it pioneered fitting radio telephones to police cars and ambulances and was the first to use short-wave radio for agricultural use. 51 07 27

1951 08 22
Some of the world's leading television scientists are in Cambridge for a Convention at the Cavendish Laboratory. So far as can be seen, television receivers will never again be so cheap as they are today. New valves, new circuits and new T.V. cameras form part of the discussions; two papers have been written by members of local firms. Messrs J.E. Cope, L.W. Germany & R. Theile of Pye-Cathodeon will speak on the Image Iconoscope Type Television Camera Tube

1952 05 03
A hitherto undreamed-of use for the television camera unit – to facilitate under-water research and the location of wrecks – was demonstrated at Pye's Radio works. It was this type of camera which located the submarine Affray and was manipulated from the recovery vessel H.M.S. Reclaim. At present she is being fitted with additional Pye Radio T.V. equipment and when this is completed the BBC will arrange an outside broadcast from the ship. Its visual range is far greater than that of a diver and it can operate at a greater depth. For the purposes of the demonstration the camera was set up in front of a goldfish tank owing to the high mud content of the River Cam

1952 12 23
The first children's Christmas party given by Pye Ltd since the war was held in the Canteen, St Andrew's Road, Cambridge, when more than 450 children of employees thoroughly enjoyed themselves. After tea they were entertained by the antics of Mr Shipp and then watched a marionette show presented by the Frith family of Histon. This is a real family show with son Roger, 13, manipulating the puppets, Mrs Lilian Frith making off-stage sounds and her husband Oliver providing the voices. Then Father Christmas arrived with sacks of presents and the children went home – the younger ones tired but happy

1953 02 03
More evacuees from the Married Quarters at Felixstowe RAF Station arrived at Waterbeach RAF station, bringing the total to about 150. The matron of the Glanely Rest, at Exning, says that 35 flooded-out residents of the Bristol House Home at Felixstowe had been accommodated at the late Lord Glanely's house. Pye's factory at Oulton Broads, Lowestoft, was flooded by 28-ft waves and put out of action. Salt water covered much of the equipment. Yesterday Mr L.W. Jones, Works Director and Mr C.A. Harmer, Technical Director went to Lowestoft to survey the damage and make plans for sending help from Cambridge

1953 06 03
On Coronation Day Pye Ltd of Cambridge operated the first colour television outside broadcast ever done in this country. It was seen in a well-known Children's Hospital and several other selected places. Three colour cameras used in transmission were sited on top of Government buildings facing Parliament Square and Whitehall. Hundreds of people assembled in Cambridge Guildhall to watch the ceremony on television. The latest television screens were used. The picture was clear and precise but there was, of course, no control over the usual interference from electrical appliances which all TV owners are forced to suffer in silence. Six domestic TV sets were installed in the Corn Exchange and because of the bright light, shields were fitted around the screens 53 06 03

1953 07 31
All work at the Pye Factory ended early and the employees dined off sandwich instead of their customary hot meal as they crammed into the works canteen for a visit of the BBC "Workers' Playtime" broadcast. The entertainment featured the close-harmony quintet 'The Coronets', Lionel Saxon, 'genial host of the Winkle Club', who put plenty of energy into his comic impersonations & Monica Owen with her intimate songs. The broadcast ended with Beryl Reid, who was greeted with shrieks of laughter when she appeared in black stockings and green gym tunic with her handkerchief tucked away in the traditional schoolgirl place for her caricature of Monica, the awful child

1953 09 08
Pye Ltd of Cambridge are showing on their stand at the Radio Show a 27-inch direct view cathode ray television receiver with automatic picture control. It is the largest ever seen in the country and will allow at least 200 people to watch in comfort. Pye have also provided a miniature 'staticon' television camera which is being used on the Celebrity Dais, the pictures being relayed throughout the exhibition.

1954 01 23
Pye Ltd of Cambridge has set up the first television station on the African continent, at Casablanca. It has also received another substantial order for cameras and equipment from the Japanese public service broadcaster. During last year alone Pye delivered equipment to many countries including the U.S.A., Italy, Belgium, Norway, Germany and France and the continuing expansion of television throughout the world promises to bring even more valuable export orders.

1954 02 04
Pye's new underwater television camera has been rushed to Italy to aid the search for the Comet airliner which crashed into the sea. It is more sensitive and much smaller than any previous model and had at the time of the crash hardly gone beyond the drawing-board stage, many of the parts had not even been made. Within six days a casing had been built for operation at a depth of 250 feet, all the parts had been made and the camera assembled. Information was then received that the Comet was probably lying 600 feet below the surface and consequently a much stronger case of different design was required. It was completed in seven days and flown out.

1954 05 04
Cambridgeshire Police have been experimenting with a radio equipped motor cycle. The wireless equipment supplied by Pye Telecom gives the same facilities as that fitted to police cars. A patrolling motor cycle officer hears his call on the set; pulls up and then can receive his message through a loudspeaker, or alternatively through the hand microphone he uses for his own transmission. The range of the radio is sufficient to cover any part of the county. If adopted it would enable motor cycles to be used for many duties which at present require radio cars

1954 06 12
Pye workers photo, p10

1954 08 25
The first demonstration in Britain of 3-D television attracted large crowds to the Pye Radio works stand at the Radio and T.V. Exhibition at Earls Court, London. From a miniature studio built on a raised platform in the middle of the stand 3-D television pictures were being screened on experimental sets a few feet away. The viewers had to wear polarised spectacles. Pye do not expect sets to be on sale to the public in the near future; as a home entertainment 3-D television is a very long way off yet. At the moment they are perfecting it for use in industry

1954 10 15
Pye take 1st tv Middle East [1.8]

1955 01 26
Pye Telecommunications has just despatched the first consignment of equipment to the Sui Gas pipeline in West Pakistan. It includes an extensive communications system providing speech and teleprinter channels, a fixed-to-mobile scheme giving complete coverage of the pipeline route and a duplex HF radio-telephone between Karachi and Sui. Last year a team of Pye engineers completed a survey of the route and in a few weeks the installation team will be flying out for the final stage of the contract. 55 01 26

1955 08 20
Pye has produced a radio clock. It incorporates an electric alarm clock with a 5-amp socket so that either an electric fire or a tea maker can be set for the same time as the alarm, which switches on the radio automatically. It operates on the medium waveband with one pre-set long wave station and has a 'sleep switch' to enable it to be turned off automatically when the owner falls asleep. 55 08 20b

1955 09 10
Pye demonstrated their new aircraft instrument landing system with a series of flights in Dakotas between Cambridge and the De Havilland works at Hatfield. The trips are also open to factory staff so they can see how the system allows the pilot to land without having to be 'talked down' from the ground. They had barely time to unfasten the seat belts, say 'Thank you' to the air hostess for packets of 20 cigarettes and the treble scotches before a loudspeaker commentary was started on the landing. 55 09 10a-b

1955 12 17
Unicam Instruments celebrated its 21st birthday; it had started in a stables on St Andrew's Hill, Cambridge. Despite setbacks, when paying the staff became a problem, the firm thrived. At the outbreak of war, after a skirmish with the Ministry of Aircraft Production, they acquired Riley House opposite the Tivoli Cinema. Finance problems arose again and they established a relationship with Pye Ltd. 55 12 17a

1956 02 11
Pye's new television camera is the first of its kind anywhere. It's designed to see inside a nuclear reactor and much ingenuity has gone into its manufacture. The camera will not become radio-active, but the dust it collects from the inside of the pile will be dangerous so it will be washed with detergent after use. 56 02 11b

1956 04 05
Bridge Street is usually one of the most congested points in Cambridge but even the pavement suffered from overcrowding when pedestrians stopped to look at a television camera which had appeared in King and Harper's showrooms. The firm has arranged demonstrations of domestic appliances and for the first time Pye industrial television equipment, operating on a closed circuit, is being used to relay them to other audiences. Everybody is assured of a clear view of what is going on. 56 04 05

1956 04 14
A robot cigarette lighter which works when it is whistled to has been installed in the Earl Grey public house by a Pye research engineer. For those who cannot whistle it will oblige when the word 'light' is spoken to it; it will even light a cigar, but puts its foot down when confronted with a pipe. The small, one-valve gadget, is also a money collector for the blind people of Cambridge. 56 04 14a

1956 12 01
New equipment developed by Pye of Cambridge means that six times as many people can use radio communications and foreshadows immense developments. Telephones for the use of the travelling public in aeroplanes, railways and road services are now a possibility and a radio-telephone could become a standard fitting in all road vehicles, C.O. Stanley predicted. 56 12 01b

1957 01 05
Pye has designed a special camera to enable engineers at Calder Hall to carry out an extremely complicated inspection inside a nuclear reactor. It has been reduced to under 24 inches in length so it can form part of a mechanical grab which will be lowered into the fuel channels of the graphite core to remove obstructions 57 01 05 & 05a

1957 02 22
The long association of Pye and King and Harper of Cambridge will be celebrated in a 'Pye Parade' exhibition at Harper's Bridge Street premises. The highlight will be a specially-erected television studio and each evening programmes of local interest will be transmitted. The shows can be viewed on receivers in many parts of the premises with a limited number of seats in the studio itself. 57 02 22

1957 05 04
A Pye Magnetic Tape Data Store will be shown at an Exhibition at Olympia. It is the first to incorporate electro-pneumatic tape control allowing very high-speed movement. They were commissioned to produce six special units for experimental work in computer design and development. One has been delivered to the University Mathematical Laboratory for use with their new powerful computer EDSAC II. 57 05 04

1958 04 18
Stereophonic sound on disc sold at popular prices and played on equipment within the reach of most people – that is the revolutionary event just announced. The first public demonstration will be given at the London Audio Fair using equipment specially designed by Pamphonic Reproducers Ltd and Pye who are to issue both popular and classical stereophonic records. In the home loudspeakers can be placed about the width of a fireplace apart and listeners sitting more than nine feet away will get the full 3D effect. 58 04 18a

1958 08 22
A portable short-range guided missile intended to be used against armoured vehicles has been produced by Pye Limited. It incorporates rocket motors with a new jet steerage system and is guided to its target by thin wires which carry signals from a controller's "joystick". It can be fitted with periscopic binoculars which switch from low to high-powered magnification as the missile travels away from the launcher. Many successful test firings have taken place and it can go into production on receipt of orders. 58 08 22c

1959 09 12
Pye, the Cambridge television and radio firm, have helped to relieve the discomfort of a patient in Griffith Ward, Addenbrooke's Hospital, who is forced through illness to lie on his back for an indefinite period. They have loaned the hospital a television set which has been mounted on a high metal frame to enable him to view with ease. 59 09 12b

1959 09 21
High-ranking Service officials, including some from Russia, went for a 20-minute helicopter ride over Cambridge without moving from the comfortable dining rooms of the University Arms Hotel. They watched one of the first-ever air to ground television transmissions carried out by Pye Radio from a Bristol Sycamore. The pictures were broadcast to several 21 inch screens and showed the view from 1,100 ft. before zooming down to catch an express train just leaving the station. 56 09 21, 21a

1959 10 28
Thousands of new Anglia Television viewers are unaware that almost every piece of equipment that goes into the transmitting of the programmes was built in the Cambridge factories of Pye Limited. The Norwich studies are equipped with their cameras and control gear and 'remote' programmes use Pye mobile outside broadcast units. This is the latest version of the most successful unit ever produced and over 50 have been sold to television networks all over the world. 59 10 28b

1959 11 05
Pye Instrument Group engineers have designed a remarkable new piece of medical equipment, the Barnet Ventilator, to assist polio sufferers. Polio causes paralysis of the respiratory muscles and patients have had to be put in an iron lung. But now they can be linked to the ventilator by two plastic tubes and breathing is precisely kept within physiological limits. The machine has built-in batteries from which its transistorised circuit will run up to twenty hours allowing patients to be moved without difficulty. It can also be used in operating theatres for the administration of anaesthetics. 59 11 05a

1959 11 06
Did you ever build a television station, or a radio-telephone, or equipment for an atomic reactor? And have you ever been involved in helping ships at sea, providing entertainment for the home – or bouncing speech off the moon? Thousands of people who live in East Anglia are doing this sort of thing every day at W.G. Pye. It is one of 60 companies which make up the Pye Group whose name is respected all over the world for achievements in radio, television, telecommunications, nucleonics and electronics generally. 59 11 06c & d

1959 12 05
The Westminster Bank in Manchester has introduced the first permanent inter-branch television network. Customers can check their accounts on private television screens which relay pictures from a centralised book-keeping department a mile away. The system has been supplied by the Pye Industrial Television Division and features a small camera which looks downwards, by means of a mirror, at cheques placed on a desk. It incorporates a sound system so the operator can hold instant two-way conversations with the customer. 59 12 05a

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960 06 13
Pye engineers envisage vastly improved overseas telecommunications by the use of space satellites and the moon, complete newspapers transmitted during the night through existing television sets and the establishment of more than 100 local broadcasting stations. Active relay equipment to be carried in a space vehicle is practicable now. Their design requires a single valve operated from solar cells and could be easily launched by the Blue Streak missile. It would bring undreamed-of improvements in world-wide communications, J.R. Brinkley of Pye Telecommunications told a conference. 60 06 13

1960 08 04
Pye Telecommunications scientists are considering sending satellites into outer space so that high frequency radio waves can be 'bounced' off them and make television transmissions between England and America an everyday occurrence. It would enable clear messages to be sent to any part of the world without long-range interference. A number of civilised countries had no effective methods of communicating with one another and the radio-telephone system would cut costs, W.K. Stevenson told businessmen 60 08 04b

1960 08 25
The credit squeeze is a serious attack on industry, C.O. Stanley, chairman of Pye Ltd told the annual meeting. The sales of TV sets are down which must affect profits. But when the electronics side of the business was established 12 years ago they had little idea how successful it would be. Communications makes possible bouncing messages off the moon and the devilish weapons of the future can be controlled only by electronics. Shareholders were then taken on nation-wide tour of the company's factories by closed-circuit T.V. 60 08 25

1960 10 14
The first full-size completely portable television is made by Pye of Cambridge. It has a 14-inch screen, covers all the usual BBC & ITA channels and includes a built-in aerial. It can be operated entirely from a built-in battery or connected to a car-battery system. It uses super modern transistors

which are spreading rapidly through the development laboratories and production lines. One day there may be 'all-round' tv sets in 3D and colour, the company predicts 60 10 14a

1960 10 29
Pye-Ekco merger [27]

1960 11 30
'Telex' is the system businesses use for sending printed messages to one another – a kind of private telegraph service by which the operating of a typewriter keyboard at one end produces a typed impression on a roll of paper at the other. It is used by 40 local subscribers including Cambridge police, Pye, Fisons, Corrugated Cases at Histon, Herbert Robinson and the American Air Force. Now it has been converted to automatic working so by a simple dialling action followed by some work on the keyboard a business in Cambridge can send a typed message to an associate in Glasgow 60 11 30

1961 12 14
Pye launch domestic equipment 61 12 14

1962 04 07
Pye components on first space research satellite – 62 04 07

1962 04 14
The new Scientific Instrument Centre comprising laboratories and factories of Unicam Instruments and W.G. Pye in York Street were opened. The two small companies, both members of the Pye Group, have won international renown. Unicam is one of the leading manufacturers in the world of photo-electric spectroscopic instruments while W.G. Pye is making a major contribution towards improved accuracy of physical measurements and in the field of chemical analysis. They have more than 1,000 employees with exports exceeding £1m during the last financial year. 62 04 14 marks stage in development which widens horizons for collaboration of science & industry; could be equally fruitful for both [19] [1.12]

1962 05 22
Jerzy Kazimerz Starnecki, the chief engineer and head of development at W.G. Pye, York Street, was born in Poland and served with their armed forced during the war. In 1947 he joined Pye as leader of a small team engaged in problems encountered in armoured fighting vehicles. He was responsible for the design of a complete new optical system used in the gunsight of the Conqueror tank, servo-controlled automatic stabilising gear and the C 42 Army V.H.F. communications set. His far-sighted thinking and sound engineering knowledge influenced the design of many instruments, one of his latest products being a multi-way rotary switch 62 05 22

1962 09 08
A familiar landmark of the Cambridge skyline is being taken down. The Pye mast was built at the start of the war to help them develop defence systems and also broadcast very low power experimental television programmes. It was originally 185 feet tall but extra aerials were added. At the top is a small cabin used to house experimental equipment and large enough for a man to work in. The mast will be replaced with a later type suitable for newest television techniques. 62 09 08a

1962 10 11
Master-slave manipulators for radio-active material featured in 'Dr No' made by Pye 62 10 11

1962 12 01
C.O. Stanley, head of Pye, warned of redundancy in the tv industry unless people bought 625-line sets. 62 12 01b

1963 04 17

Often youngsters who fail the eleven-plus choose an apprenticeship in the engineering industry. They start in a company at age 15 and serve a 12 month's probationary period after which the normal apprenticeship runs until their 21st birthday. They will study at a Further Educational Centre one day a week and also attend classes one or two nights. W.G. Pye and Unicam have played an important role in maintaining and improving standards in their large and well-equipped apprenticeship schools and more recently Pye has opened an entirely new Training Centre to cater for apprentices throughout their group. 63 04 17c

1963 05 22
Plans by the Pye Group to tour the country with their new mobile 625-line television transmitter and studio have been blocked by the Post Office who says they do not have a licence. It was launched in Cambridge when the Mayor, Ald Hickson, became the first public figure to appear on the system. The whole of the television industry has been devoted to the development of the new equipment which was featured at the last Radio Show. Pye has called for the ban to be immediately reversed 63 05 22

1963 07 24
Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon came to Cambridge to watch television cameras and electronic equipment being made at the Pye factory, St Andrews Road. A small industrial closed circuit television camera was trained on them when Lord Snowdon asked to have a go. The Princess then focussed it on a group of press photographers. A great burst of cheering went up when Lord Snowdon went over to attractive Mrs Jean Keeble who was working on a television assembly line. "I was absolutely thrilled", she said. Later they took a voyage on the Cam on Viscountess Bury 63 07 24 & a [4.7]

1963 09 05
The Pye 625 mobile television test station which was closed by the Post Office in May, is to start broadcasting again. Agreement has been reached with the G.P.O. over a broadcasting licence for the station which will start a tour of the Midlands. The station, which was first publicly shown at Cambridge, will transmit pictures and captions together with commentaries to inform the public about 625-line television. 63 09 05

1963 09 27
Pye Printed Motors Ltd formed to manufacture electric servo motors - 63 09 27

1963 09 27
Pye develop television telephone 63 09 27

1964 05 13
Pye group in the space race – 64 05 13d

1964 07 17
Pye equipment used in 1st commercial radio station on Isle of Man, closed down 64 07 17

1964 08 07
A transistorised nuclear reactor developed by Pye Ltd is cheap yet provides immense opportunities in the field of research. It will produce short-lived isotopes for medical diagnosis and neutron activation. The reactor was built under licence to an American company and modified to raise the power to 100 kilowatts. In the event of overheating, boiling water within the reactor shuts down the output of the pile. Accidentally-dropped radio-active material is far more likely to bring the warning system into use that uncontrolled goings-on within the system. 64 08 07 64 07 30

1964 09 16
Pye Thermal Bonders formed – 64 09 16a

1964 11 02

Pye Electrical is to go into the twin tub washing machine market with a model that will sell for 49 guineas (about £910 at today's prices). The specification is very similar to that of the Rolls washing machine which went out of production when John Bloom's company collapsed. It is finished in white enamel and fitted with twin tubs and aluminium lids. Simple controls are fitted to the top, right hand corner of the front panel and a table top is available as an extra. 64 11 02a

1964 11 13
Eastern Electricity's new Fens Sub-Area control room knocks spots off the old system used at Thompson's Lane. A huge panel displays the entire electrical network while control desks have radio communications and lists of emergency engineering staff who can be called out. There is a standby generator which starts automatically should the main power fails. All this is the work of Pye Ltd. There is not a second when it is left empty. But it is unlikely that full-scale automation will ever be introduced. 64 11 13

1965 05 22
Pye hi-fi stereoscopic record projection system flourishes 65 02 22b

1965 07 22
Pye strike threat increases in dispute – 65 07 22

1965 10 14
Pye not to spend large sums on colour television until Government reach decision on future – 65 10 14a

1966 01 29
Pye huge slump in profits, Government squeeze hits sales of tvs 66 01 29

1966 04 04
Pye incur large losses in radio and television side of group – 66 04 04

1966 04 16
Pye still silent as rumours mount – 66 04 16

1966 04 19
Pye respond to report of resignations following large losses – 66 04 19, 19b

1966 05 04
Charles Orr Stanley replaced as chairman of Pye by Francis Duncan – 66 05 04

1966 05 20
Pye lay-off 800 at Southend tv factory 66 05 20

1966 04 21
Pye Telecommunications and Unicam Instruments granted Queen's Award for Industry – 66 04 21b

1966 07 20
Pye demonstrate first mass-produced colour tv set 66 07 20

1966 09 07
Pye pocket radio-telephone exhibited – 66 09 07

1966 10 10
Pye withdraw from rental connection disputes 66 10 10

1966 10 25
£1m dive in Pye share value; dissatisfaction with new management – 66 10 25

1966 11 11
Pye urged to appoint Receiver following losses if to remain independent – 66 11 11; J.O. Stanley voted off Pye's Board – 66 11 17, 61 11 18

1966 11 24
Pye shares rise as big international take-over battle develops; bid from Philips – 66 11 24a, c

1967 02 01
Pye speculation over resignation of one of the managing directors – 67 02 01, 67 02 02

1967 02 17
Philips win take-over battle for Pye, set up Pye Holdings 62 07 17
30 separate Pye group companies classified A & B, the As being larger & producing finished goods - Pye - Telecom (mobile radio equipment), Unicam (scientific instrumentation), TVT (broadcast equipment) TMC (telephone equipment) & Business communications (intercoms, pa, security surveillance cameras etc. B include Cathodeon, Cathodeon Crystals, Labgear, Pye Electro-devices, Thermal Bonders & Varelco. A companies report direct Philips London, B to have new Cambridge HQ. 79 10 30

1967 10 02
Pye chairman F.R. Duncan who took over from C.O. Stanley in May last year now hands over to Peter Thoneycroft, chairman of Pye Holdings, the Company set up by Philips to control Pye following their take-over – 67 10 02

1968 07 01
Pye Unicam formed through merger W.G. Pye & Co. Ltd and Unicam Instruments – 68 07 01

1968 11 01
Pye Group – 400 jobs at Pye Telecommunications and Combined Electronic Services – 68 11 01

1969 02
Pye Telecom develop pocket phones [19]

1969 04 29
Combined Electronic Services factory, part of Pye group, closes – 69 04 29

1969 06 20
Pye want to develop on Trinity Milton Rd (Science Park) site 69 06 20

1969 11 06
Pye establish new computer centre opposite St Andrew's Road HQ – 69 11 06

1970 12 11
Pye have 10% share colour tv market 70 12 11

1971 01 21
Pye plan new complex for production, storage and offices in St Andrew's Road – 71 01 21

1971 01 26
Pye close avionics operations Southend, 500 laid off 71 01 26

1971 02 26
Pye sack 260 works, rising costs blamed – 71 02 26

1971 04 05
Pye turnover £100M but profits down - 71 04 05

1971 04 16
Pye set up new computer bureau - Cambridge data processing 71 04 16

1971 07 24
Pye Unicam close Kings Lynn factory, 168 redundant - 71 07 24

1970 10 10
Pye Unicam redundancies follow news sacking at Cambridge Scientific Instruments – 70 10 10

1972 03 22
BBC order Pye TVT transmitters

1972 04 14
Pye mark 25th year, p20

1972 04 26
Pye colour tv, p13

1972 08 15
Pye profit, p8

1973 01 08
Pye Telecommunications of Cambridge have opened a Middle East office to service their expanding interest in that part of the world. The office in Beirut, capital of Lebanon, opened for business on Monday. Their director of International Marketing said "Pye Telecommunications look upon the Middle East as a key territory in their international operations and intend from these arrangement to provide an improved service for their existing and potential customers throughout the territory"

1973 01 13
Pye of Cambridge Ltd have become the first company in the modern electronics industry to be granted armorial bearings. They grant which has royal assent has been made in recognition of the company's contribution to the nation. One reason for Pye receiving this rare distinction was their role in designing and producing equipment which helped to bring the Second World War to a close. They switched their production to inventing and making military equipment and by setting up a village network of 14,000 people. They led the field in radio location, radar, bombing aids, radio communications, and one of the first guided missile devices

1973 03 06
One of the largest single orders - £2.1 million - ever placed to a Pye group company has been won by Pye TVT Ltd of Coldham's Lane, Cambridge, to supply colour television equipment to the government of South Korea. Many Far East observers believe that Korea could be expanding industrially to the point where it could become another Japan so the long-term prospects for business there seem very good. The contract is for a full colour television installation for the national broadcasting system. TVT will supply four colour television studios, a monochrome studio, colour and monochrome cameras, mobile studios, a master control and associated equipment. It also covers the training of Korean engineers

1973 03 27

The Pye group intend to maintain their workforce at about 23,600, the chairman, Lord Thorneycroft, said today. This followed four years of staff pruning in which 6,000 people have lost their jobs. Since the Philips takeover in February 19sixtyseven a policy of rationalisation has been carried out in all companies and operations within the Pye group. Staff cuts were made from a peak of 29,636 employees in 1969. Over the past five years sales per employee have almost doubled and trading profit has shot up from 8.4 to 22.4 per cent

1973 07 24
There are 17 vacancies for every unemployed school leaver in Cambridgeshire, it was disclosed yesterday. The principal careers advisory officer, Miss G. Miller, said the jobs glut had highlighted last year's raising of the school leaving age. Most of the vacancies were in shop and offices. Jobs were also plentiful in manufacturing industry - chiefly unskilled labour. A spokesman for Pye, who employ more than 6,000 workers in Cambridge, confirmed they were having difficulties in recruiting school leavers

1973 07 25
A commercial radio consortium backed by three of the largest firms in Cambridge are asking other city organisations to join them in making plans for local broadcasting. The group have the support of Cambridge Newspapers ltd, the Pye group and Marshall of Cambridge. They represent the first major opposition to the Cambridge Community Broadcasting Company - a consortium set up several years ago by Mr Brian Jackson of the city-based Advisory Centre for Education. It may be almost 1980 before there is any chance of Cambridge getting a commercial station

1973 08 14
Just how important is one product in the range of a group which has 40 companies turning out a whole range of products? The answer for Pye - when it comes to colour television - is very important. For continuing good sales of colour television is one of the main reasons for the group's record sales and profits in the first six months of this year. The chairman, Lord Thorneycroft forecasts continued high sales: "I think the actual rush is over but with the Royal wedding coming along in November and the World Cup series next year there is no knowing where it is going to end". The sales of the group rose 29% to £84 million

1974 01 03
Something of the wartime spirit has crept into Mid-Anglian managements who are faced with the three-day electric week and oil shortages. The Pye Group employ a large percentage of women, so they don’t want to ask them to work Saturdays, as the power rota demands, because of family commitments. So they will be using generators to give basic power on the other days, and will do as much as possible on those days that does not need power tools. They'll also cut down the lunch break

1974 01 07
Pye allowed full week during electricity cuts, p1

1974 03 08
The announcement of a return to the five-day week was greeted with relief by mid-Anglia’s industrialists. Pye of Cambridge said that all their factories would be back to normal working on Monday. The secretary of Cambridge Trades Council said that for workers the main gain was a return to normality. “In this area we were not hit very hard by the three-day week, but it is a good thing it is over”

1974 03 14
Pye record £18.5M profit – 74 03 14

1974 08 17
Pye profits drop by 50% due consumer credit restrictions – 74 08 17

1974 10 02
Today sees the first issue of a talking newspaper in Cambridge. Carried on tape cassettes it will be issued to 30 blind, elderly and infirm people and will provide a service of news based on material appearing in the C.E.N. Pye radio provided £1,500 worth of tape recorders to launch the project and the Vice Chancellor has offered University recording facilities. The "Talking News" was originated by Mrs D.M.C. Matthews of the Blantyre Home for the Blind in Glisson Rd and is now administered by a special trust.

1974 10 07
About 7,000 men and women in the Cambridge area work for the Pye Group of Companies. More than 1,000 employees travel daily to work by Pye bus. The first of the 40 buses in daily use sets out from Wisbech in time to make the Cambridge works by 8am. Almost 30 per cent of the workers get to and from work by the buses. A special crèche has allowed the mothers of some 40 youngest children to return to work. Without a firm commitment to planned industrial expansion Cambridge could well fall behind more dynamic centres within commuting distance, and, in time, become a quaint but declining tourist backwater in the fens, say the company 74 10 07

1975 08 21
The finance director of the Pye Group, Cambridge's largest employer, is a worried man. Not that the group is going to the wall or even likely to run into the red in the current year – but the fact is that the group's profits are going to be less than 1974. Already this year it has cut out 2,000 of its 21,000 UK jobs and is making expensive efforts to sell goods. The problem is that the recession in Britain and Western Europe shows no signs of ending 75 08 21

1976 04 15
Pye colour tv vans, p25

1976 04 22
Pye museum, p10

1976 07 08
Pye sell off tv rental side – 76 07 08

1976 11 10
A proposal to set up nursery and crèche facilities within Cambridge University for the children of its staff and students was "wholly impracticable", dons were told. Parents ought to bear the responsibility for their children, "it was not something for the university or colleges to shoulder". But trades union officials said that Pye's had already provided nursery facilities for their staff. It would provide refreshment and revitalisation & allow women freed from family ties to become workers, students and academics.

1976 12 14
For the first time in two years Pye is going to see its television and radio division make money, but final details of the deal in which Philips Industries will take it over have still to be settled. Jobs are reasonably safe despite the selling off of the radio, television and audio side of its activities: Philips will take on those still working at factories at Lowestoft and King's Lynn. It is prepared to pay hard cash for companies whose losses were running at about £2 million last year because of the commercial benefits of expansion. Both have been busy on research and development work on radio, televisions and hi-fi equipment. Elimination of half the work brings an immediate saving. The Pye group will in future concentrate its efforts on scientific and technical "professional" equipment 76 12 14

1977 04 07
Pye top-out building, p9

1977 08 19
Pye profits rocket, p10

1978 05 10
Pye supplement

1978 05 15
Pye open new Telecom works, St Andrews Road, one week after flood – 78 05 15

1979 01 02
Eldon Griffiths, the Conservative MP, has asked for East Anglia, and particularly Haverhill and Cambridge to be considered an area for building new 'silicon-chip' factories. It has a clean uncluttered environment with abundant 'greenfield' sites together with easy access via the modern ports of Ipswich and Felixstowe. There is a population with a high proportion of teenagers, especially in the 'overspill' towns, capable of being trained in the new techniques of the 'micro-chip' revolution. He cites an absence of obsolete buildings and embittered industrial relations that inhibit the introduction of modern machinery and a sturdy foundation for electronic-type development arising from companies such as Pye and world-famous university science departments.

1979 02 12
Pye celebrate 50 years in radio – 70 02 12

1979 02 15
Two hundred workers at Pye Engineering Services will lose their jobs when the firm closes this summer. The company designs and manufactures press, tools, jigs, fixtures and special purpose machines and closure is blamed on the lack of demand due to changes in technology and product types. It started in 1946 as a small engineering shop with a dozen workers and at its peak employed 350 people. But large losses have been made annually and two years ago 130 workers were put on a three-day week because of a collapse in sales.

1979 03 21
Opposition to a bid by Pye of Cambridge to sell about six acres of land near their Cathodeon Crystals factory at Linton for 50 to 60 houses came to a head at a planning inquiry. The site is lying derelict and there was no prospect of it being developed as a factory extension because of difficulties in getting the right kind of skilled labour. It is surrounded by housing with schools and shopping conveniently near. A high proportion of their local employees came from the village but a lot had to be bussed in. Planners originally thought Pye might make the land available for council housing but their decision to redevelop has upset the Parish Council

1979 05 12
It is costing the Pye Group £1.3 million to close two factories and meet redundancy payments for those thrown out of work. They are Pye Engineering Services in Cambridge, which closes next month with the loss of 200 jobs, and Pye Ether of Stevenage. It is also closing Pye TMC's factory at Livingstone, Scotland. The profits of Pye Telecom – the largest single earner – were hit by competition from major international suppliers but the Business Communications side had a good order book and Pye Unicam orders were 20 per cent up. Sales of the Labgear television Teletext adaptor were initially disappointing but are showing a marked improvement

1979 05 26
Pye Engineering Services sold to Amin 79 05 26

1979 09 05

Philips Group complete take-over; had 60.7% from 1967 when Pye in financial trouble but offered rest British investors; but with increasing competition from Japan & USA arrangement looked shaky. Even sale to Philips two years ago of consumer division - tv, radio electrical did little to help & take-over the only answer; four years ago put some top financial men into Pye to shake-up management; likely to continue Pye name 79 09 05

1979 10 30
The name of Pye has been around since 1896. To most people it conjures up a picture of radios, televisions, record players and even records. But none of the UK companies in the Pye of Cambridge group now makes any of these and since October 1st this year, legally speaking, Pye Holdings, the parent group, ceased to exist as a public company. About 12 years ago Philips made a successful bid for the Pye group and it has now become a fully-owned subsidiary. This will improve the future prospects of the companies and the long-term opportunities for employment within them, management claim.

1980
90 jobs to go as Unicam cut back

1980 04 19
Cambridge Electronic Industries - smaller Pye companies set up management company after Philips take over, sold off 1981prospers, Philips sell last of stake 1986 [7.9]

1981 04 01
Pye Business Communications is marketing a revolutionary office intercom system, the M100S, which, literally, speaks for itself. A voice unit will verbally tell a caller if a particular extension is in a meeting or on holiday. It can also take a video screen which will flash up information such as a user transferring to another extension or an absence or holiday list. All the information is put into a microcomputer exchange by the keys or dials of the intercom and telephones. 81 04 01a

1981 04 20
Pye TVT win Queens Award to Industry for Export achievement – 81 04 20

1981 11 25
Pye Telecom old Ditton Walk works empty since September – 81 11 26

1982 04 06
Pye TVT of Cambridge may lose a £100,000 order for television transmitters from Argentina because of the Falkland Islands crisis but Pye Telecom are still working on a £4,000 order for a communications system for the Falklands Islands. Stansted Airport's three giant Belfast military planes may be drafted into military use to ferry bulk loads nearer the scene of the action. Although they can land on medium-sized runways like Cambridge it could not land on the airstrip at Port Stanley. 82 04 06a

1982 08 25
The final phase of the Coral Park development in Coldham's Lane is now complete. Work began in December 1973 with the demolition of a 160-ft high chimney which had been part of the Cambridge landscape for more than a century. The first warehouse was let to E. Laxton, a national cash and carry operation, and other tenants include W.H. Smith (Wholesale), Pye Telecommunications and Linfood. 82 08 25

1982 09 15
Pye Telecom shed 170 jobs 82 09 15

1983 04 22
Pye Telecom win £10M contract 83 04 22

1983 09 30
Pye Ltd move St Andrews Rd from Ditton Walk 83 09 30

1984 01 19
Telecom lose £3M Philips strong men in TVT in battle long-term commercial survival Philips battle to stay a world leader 84 01 19

1984 02 06
Pye TVT in battle for long-term commercial survival 84 02 06

1984 05 15
A telephone in one's car must represent one-upmanship. Pye Telecom has just introduced its new radiophone. Electricians are using them, so are plumbers. Not only is it a boon, it is also the most infuriating device ever invented by man. It costs around £2,350 to buy and a further £100 to have it fitted. Then there is a maintenance contract and British Telecom fees of £105 a quarter. For this it is theoretically possible to send and receive ordinary telephone calls to and from your car. In practice they are patchy in the Cambridge area 84 05 15 p16

1984 10 29
Philips battle to stay world leader against Japanese 84 10 29

1985 01 23
Pye has been in consumer electrical goods since 1922 when W.G. Pye and Co began selling wireless kits. Now from its headquarters in St Andrew's Road, Chesterton it sells a wide range of televisions and radios under the Pye brand name though they are not made in Cambridge and have Philips internals. People have a very strong loyalty to the name 'Pye', so now they are moving back into areas which have been abandoned to the Japanese. Video cassette recorders have been selling since July and hi-fi music-centres will be launched this year. 85 01 23a

1985 03 15
Pye TVT profits 85 03 15a

1985 08 05
Death of Edward Stanley, one of original directors of Pye of Cambridge 85 08 05

1985 10 24
Pye director John Stanley dies – 85 10 24a

1985 11 29
Pye TVT, the Cambridge television equipment company is to close its studio systems plant which employs 230 people – 85 11 29

1986 01 03
Local firms such as Pye Unicam, Barnwell Engineering and Cambridge Instruments have shown that there are rich pickings in exporting to Eastern Bloc companies. Now two new companies have been established to assist exports. Anglia Instruments deals in Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia on behalf of several small firms including Techne at Duxford, while Anglo-Polish Exhibitions based at Histon provides a complete back-up service to firm who want to exhibit at major trade fairs in Poland. 86 01 03a

1986 02 03
Philips set up new tv studio system in Germany 86 02 03

1986 09 24

Pye Ltd move to Croydon - departure of original radio works from which other Pye group companies have grown 86 09 24

1987 06 08
An era in Cambridge business will end when Pye Telecom changes its name to Philips Telecom. Pye has been part of Philips since 1966. The former name has been on the retreat elsewhere. Pye TVT has been sold to the American company Varian and Pye Unicam uses the name Philips Analytical. The last reminder of the old firm, which began when W.G. Pye set up an instrument company in 1896 is the Pye TV and radio business which has now moved to Croydon. 87 06 08c

1988 01 05
Pye Unicam, direct descendant of the original W.G. Pye instrument company founded in 1896 has now changed its name to Philips Scientific. It was formed from the merger of W.F. Pye and Unicam in 1947 and was the last of the Cambridge companies to keep the name Pye in its title. It has now been recognised as a group with four divisions including the once separate Philips Communications and Security in Cromwell Road. It specialises in making analytical instruments for laboratory use, much of which is sold to Eastern Europe and the Far East 88 01 05 history of company – 88 01 05a, 88 01 06 & a

1990 01 08
Cambridge Electronic Industries was initially comprised of companies that did not fit into the Philips group. Today nearly half have been sold or have merged. Casualties include Pye RF Systems which sold equipment for the rapid drying of printed work, Cathodeon Crystals which merged with Newmarket Microsystems and Labgear Cablevision which has been sold to a Finnish company. But they have acquired seven American companies and exports represent half of CEI's total business – 90 01 08a

1990 05 12
Philips Scientific, York Street makes redundancies in manufacturing division, making analytical instruments. Sister company Philips Radio Communications axed 120 jobs St Andrew's Road – 90 05 12a

1990 11 30
Philips to axe 300 jobs including Philips Radio Communications Systems, St Andrews Road – 90 11 30

1991 02 26
Philips Scientific, which employs 525 people at its York Street plant may be bought by Analytical Technology Inc; was formerly Pye Unicam – 91 02 26a

W.H. Smith's computer shop with display of Sinclair computers, December 1983 *143.51*

c.27.1 : Sinclair

1962 founded; "started by miniature radio sets,
1966 Sinclair Radionics mini-tv shown at Television and Radio Show at Earl's Court – 66 08 22 [4.8]

1967 bright future for 26 year old; Sinclair Radionics established HQ Cambridge a year ago; announce miniature tv & digital watch - 67 01 14 [21]

1971 move St Ives, mainly known for hi-fi equipment
1971 turnover £100M but profits down set up new computer bureau - Cambridge data processing

1972 new electronic calculator, pocket size

1973 still dominate market, add to range

1975 send out over 100,000 month

1976 National Enterprise Board put in £650,000, ends 3-year quest for new capital

1977 worlds smallest tv unveiled

1978 loses £1.3M, axe 56 jobs due US dollar fall value

1979 lost £2M, sack 160; Sinclair leaves groups, starts Sinclair Research in Cambridge

1980 launched ZX80 personal computer, smaller & 4 x as cheap
1980 Sinclair Research, the company founded by Mr Clive Sinclair who pioneered the world's first pocket calculators and micro-televisions wants to buy the church of St Andrew the Great and turn it into a laboratory. They are currently researching computers and electrically-powered vehicles and are looking for premises in central Cambridge. But the church say he is unlikely to get permission because schemes for offices, shops, a language school and a mosque had already been rejected. 80 07 08g

1981 launches flat-screen tv & ZX 81; start cut-price war Acorn over microcomputers secondary schools Sinclair Radionics renamed Thander Electronics, is almost wholly owned National Enterprise Board invades Japan
1981 Microelectronics have caused some major shake-ups in the way we live and work; Cambridge's electronics wizard, Clive Sinclair brought us the first pocket calculator and pocket television and now launches Britain's first complete personal computer, the ZX-80. It plugs into the aerial socket of your television and is tuned in like a video-game. But then you have to type in a program from the 128-page instruction manual. The computer is not really all that bright and must be given a clear list of instructions before it can do even the simplest sums. 81 01 26a & b
1981 Cambridge electronics wizard, Clive Sinclair, has launched the world's first flat-screen television. Working with Timex he hopes to produce a million tubes in 1982. The first will be a 6 x 4 x 1-inch pocket television costing £50 able to pick up transmissions anywhere. It may eventually lead to a large screen which can be hung on a wall 81 02 18c

1982 set up deal Timex
1982 open space-age HQ Willis Rd using hot water from deep bore hole
1982 Clive Sinclair, managing director of Sinclair Research Ltd of Cambridge has been chosen as Personality of the Year in a new series of awards for achievements in technical innovation. It follows the success of his ZX 81 personal computer of which some 40,000 are now being sold every month in this country. Production of the model, which has been a major force in bringing computers into everyday use, is now greater than any other computer in the world 82 01 29
1982 Electronics wizard Clive Sinclair unveiled his new Cambridge headquarters. The building is based on a soft-drinks works with a futuristic new wing added. Sunlight coming through the glass roof of the new wing and water from a spring under the original building will be used to control air temperatures. Telephone and security systems will be heavily computerised. The reception area includes the largest polished bronze sculpture in the work by Helaine Blumenfeld who lives in Grantchester. 82 10 02

1983 Grundy Business systems crashes, Science Park first failure; Britain's first home computer failure, based on New Brain designed by Sinclair before left Radionics, overtaken by new designs etc [6.7]
1983 Timex strike
1983 invests £12.9M in electric car
1983 buys Milton Hall for Metalab
1983 Sinclair knighted
1983 launches flat-screen tv seeks BBC contract
1983 Cambridge computer wizard Clive Sinclair may buy the factory of the failed Northern Ireland sports car company De Lorean to manufacture his electric car. His Sinclair Vehicle Project is developing what is hoped to be the first mass-produced electric vehicle for some years. Intended for city travellers it is due for release in 1985. The technology was developed by the Norfolk based Lotus Company, which Sir Clive has also shown an interest in buying 86 06 20 p3

1983 The Cambridge computer industry has suffered its first casualty. Grundy Business Systems, based on the Science Park, launched its NewBrain microcomputer in May last year, based on a design by Sir Clive Sinclair. It became one of the best-selling in the UK but an unexpected decline in sales and a failure to meet deadlines led to cash difficulties 83 08 31 p1
1983 Jupiter Cantab small computer company into liquidation, 2nd in3 months, set up by ex-Sinclair designer [9.4]
1983 company valued at £136M making Sinclair who owns 95% worth £129.2M; Timex strike; to set up Metalab £2 research centre; invests £12.9M in electric car; buys Milton Hall for Metalab; Sinclair knighted

1984 launches QL
1984 hit by US price war, production delays China deal

1985 electric trike launched but fails & calls in receiver in tight financial difficulties as is Acorn during dramatic price-war to overcome competition & dealer stocks; Acorn sold Olivetti [23]
1985 Sinclair Research is selling its award-winning headquarters at Willis Road, Cambridge. The class and stainless-steel conversion of a Victorian bottling plant has been in use since 1982. Now the company's activities are to be concentrated at Milton Hall where their advanced research centre, Metalab is already operating. It is part of a restructuring programme to slim the company in the face of an estimated £15 million debt. 85 09 20
1985 sells marketing rights computers to Amstrad
1985 to sell Milton Hall
1985 Sir Clive Sinclair's new electric car is quite unlike anything else on the road. It is shaped like a plastic torpedo and equipped with handlebars beneath the driver's knee and a set of large bicycle pedals. Top speed is around 15mph on the level and the range on a single battery is around 20 miles. It can be recharged in eight hours and has a space for a reserve battery. The price is right: at just under £400 on the road it represents another highly-successful gamble on the part of the Cambridge-based millionaire 85 01 10a & b & c
1985 More than 5,000 Sinclair C5 electric vehicles have been sold during the first four weeks of production. At the moment it is sold by mail order but they are already talking to a number of High Street retailers who would sell the £400 machine direct to the public. Interest has come from as far away as the Outer Hebrides and Cornwell and from both teenagers and old age pensioners. In Cambridge the Eastern Electricity showrooms on Market Hill report continued interest in the machine they have on display and have distributed over 2,000 order forms 85 02 11
1985 Sir Clive Sinclair is taking a £3 million high-tech centre as part of a major expansion of his Cambridge-based research company. The present headquarters at Willis Road is bursting at the seams so he is moving to the Camtec Centre off Rustat Road. Other high-tech companies in the area include Cambridge Electronic Industries, Acornsoft and Logica. Sinclair this week launched a big advertising campaign for its £100 pocket TV and hopes to sell 200,000 units of their QL computers in 1985. 85 03 01a
1985 Clive Sinclair offered four-acre site for 'superchip' plant – 85 03 26
1985 Sinclair production C5 suspended – 85 03 29a 1985 Cambridge computer company Sinclair Research needs to raise up to £15 million and is also looking for a new chief executive officer. – 85 05 28

1986 Sinclair launches Anamartic - superchip & company Moduliser -portable micro-computer
1986 "Sinclair has become a legend as one of most prestigious inventors since Leonardo. 1st pocket calculator, one of first digital watches, first sub-£100 home computer & first pocket tv set ... thanks Spectrum his name as familiar to generation of under-18s as Superman .. few products emerged without serious teething troubles & major delays 2 separate companies : Sinclair research makes computers & flat screen tv; he sold some shares to group institutions 2 years ago Sinclair Vehicles founded on back of that money to make C5 but problems at each company simultaneously - Vehicles lack sales Research hit by lack sales, dealers left with surplus & not reordering & home computer market saturated mini-tv not in High St but selling in USA
1986 Clive Sinclair ups and downs – 86 04 08a

1989 Electronics wizard and Cambridge tycoon Sir Clive Sinclair has been hailed as a visionary – and castigated as a mere marketeer. In his career he has reflected the best in British enterprise but also suffered the embarrassment of failure. He has seen the field of electronics change out of all recognition in his lifetime. He formed his first company, Sinclair Radionics in 1962 and moved to Cambridge five years later where he produced an early digital watch, then began the calculator craze and made a miniature television. But it was when he made personal computers that his business took off. But he will still be remembered for the ill-fated C5. 89 06 09bb

1990 Sir Clive Sinclair's Cambridge Computer firm is moving to Scotland; meteoric rise and fall; started Sinclair Radionics in 1962, moving to Cambridge in 1967; produced digital watch and calculator, tv and computers. Won Queen's Award in 1975 and knighted 1983. But C5 flopped, marriage broke up and sold his house on Madingley Road in 1989 – 90 06 30a